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THE AWARD-WINNING NEWSPAPER



# THE INDEPENDENT

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**12-PAGE SPORT SECTION**  
TRIUMPH FOR THE MARATHON RUNNERS.  
AGONY FOR CHELSEA'S TITLE PRETENDERS

**GARDENING OR BUST?**  
DEBORAH ROSS MEETS CHARLIE DIMMOCK  
REVIEW FRONT

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## Blair's despair over 'Titanic' feud between Brown and Mandelson

TONY BLAIR likened the bitter dispute between Gordon Brown and Peter Mandelson to "a Greek tragedy" and ordered them to stop their "Titanic feud," according to a new biography of Mr Mandelson.

Mr Blair spoke of his own "despair" at the rift between his two closest political allies. His warning about its dangers came in a private letter to Mr Mandelson more than two years before the feud was blamed for the disclosure of his £373,000 personal loan from Geoffrey Robinson, which caused the former trade sec-

retary's resignation from the Cabinet. Mr Blair's dramatic 1996 letter was his reply to Mr Mandelson's offer to resign as Labour's election campaign manager after walking out of a meeting in which he clashed with Mr Brown, who was in overall charge of the party's strategy.

With the election less than a year away, Mr Blair warned Mr Mandelson that his team was in a "dangerous" plight and "simply cannot continue in this

way". He accused both him and Mr Brown of seeming "more desirous of victory over each other than of trying to make it work". Mr Blair went on: "We are not players in some Greek tragedy."

"We have one overriding responsibility to deliver an election victory, and, though it may seem pious, it is just not fair to all those people who really want such a victory and are working for it, to be casualties of some Titanic but ultimately irrelevant personality feud."

"Have you any conception of how despairing it is for me

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when the two people that have been closest to me for more than a decade, and who in their different ways are the most brilliant minds of their generation, will not lay aside personal animosity and help me win?"

Later Mr Blair described this period as his worst moment since becoming Labour leader. Mr Blair did not accept that Mr Brown was to blame, telling Mr Mandelson it was "six of one and half a dozen of another".

The letter is revealed in Donald Macintyre's book, which also discloses that, according to one of his closest

members of staff, a despairing Mr Blair would ask, sometimes several times a day: "Why, oh why, can't my two best people get on with each other?"

Replying to Mr Blair's letter, Mr Mandelson quoted Michael Wills, a Brown ally with whom he was also on good terms, as saying Mr Brown was "determined to kill me before I destroy him".

Mr Wills, now a government minister, told a friend that the two politicians were "like scorpions in a bottle; only one of them will crawl out alive".

The book says the Chancel-

lor cannot be held responsible for disclosing Mr Mandelson's personal loan from Mr Robinson, but suggests it was from among his most zealous supporters, who knew what deep feelings of betrayal and mistrust he had harboured against Mr Mandelson since 1994, that the secret leaked out.

The book reveals that Mr Mandelson dated his breach with Mr Brown not to his refusal to support him for the Labour leadership on John Smith's death in 1994, but to a meeting four months later at which he claimed to friends that

Mr Brown had "argued that if they were both in agreement, Blair would always take their advice". During a reconciliation in January 1998, Mr Mandelson promised Mr Brown he would support him for the Labour leadership whenever Mr Blair stands down.

In January 1999 Mr Brown and Mr Mandelson had another reconciliation and have met several times this year once to discuss the Labour Party's campaign for next month's elections to the Scottish Parliament, in which Mr Brown is playing a leading role.

## Serb border mine slaughters family



Family and friends mourning over the coffin of Nushmije Berisha, killed when the car she was in hit a landmine on the border at Morini

ON ORTHODOX Good Friday, we watched Yugoslav border guards drilling holes in the tarmac leading from Serbia to Albania, and slotting in anti-tank mines, leaving perhaps half a lane and a muddy verge clear for the constant, dreadful, despairing stream of refugee traffic. Yesterday, we saw the hideous results of their workmanship.

At 2.40am, Ibush Berisha drove the family's white car

across the border and over a mine. There was an explosion that threw the car in the air, killing his wife and three of his children instantly and critically wounding his mother and middle son. Relatives travelling in a tractor trailer behind the car watched in horror, then attempted to rescue the victims.

"The moment the mine ex-

ploded the children and their mother were thrown far away," said Ibush, who was exhausted from his journey and in shock at its horrific end.

"The people still in the car were badly injured, having difficulty breathing and I tried to give them heart massage. The others were scattered around, one on this side, one on the other side, 10 metres or 15 metres away from the car. I don't know where my boy is."

Back at the border, Mustafa Berisha, his brother, waited for news of the family's dead. We said that Besnik, 11, had been rushed to an Italian Red Cross field hospital 12 miles away with facial injuries. It later emerged he also had severe trauma to his head.

"He is alive!" Mustafa asked, starting to weep. We did not know, but we drove him to the camp, where Italian doctors told us that Besnik - until

then known only as "Unidentified Patient, aged about 14" - had been evacuated by helicopter to Tirana. The prognosis was not good.

Ibush's mother, Nasmije, died in an ambulance on the way to Kukes hospital, her son, at her side.

He had already lost his wife Hajrije, 34, his only daughter Lavdije, 15 - her name means glory in Albanian - his eldest son Flamur, 13, who was hand-

icapped, and his son, Dritan, 10. "I didn't see the moment the car exploded, I just heard the noise," said Mustafa, who was in the trailer.

He was left yesterday trying to recover the bodies of his nephews and niece - the Serbs, not content with killing the family, were refusing to let the survivors recover the children's corpses.

"My daughter and two sons

## Loner suspected of 'crude' Brixton bomb

A LONE bomber or a small group of activists were last night thought to be the most likely suspects behind the nail-bomb explosion in Brixton, south-west London, which injured 39 people, four of them seriously.

Police had ruled out the involvement of Irish terrorists and there was nothing to implicate animal-rights campaigners or anti-Nato demonstrators. No

one had claimed responsibility for the bomb which exploded in Electric Avenue at 5.30pm on Saturday, and for which no warning was given.

There was, however, growing speculation that the street market where the bomb exploded may not have been the target. Witnesses said the device - con-

tained in a sports holdall - had first been seen at a bus stop. Yesterday, forensic science experts from the Metropolitan Police's anti-terrorist branch were sifting through debris for clues. All they had established was that the bomb did not contain high explosives, suggesting it was genuinely "home made".

Last night, 14 people remained in hospital being treat-

ed for injuries caused by flying nails or debris. A 23-month-old boy underwent emergency surgery to have a 10cm nail removed from his skull. Great Ormond Street Hospital was optimistic that he would suffer no permanent brain damage. Doctors at King's College Hospital were trying to save the sight of two men hit by debris.

Police were last night study-

ing closed-circuit television footage from the scene to try to identify who left the holdall at the bus stop or the market. They refused to say if they had identified anyone. "There were a lot of people around," said Commander John Coles, of Brixton police. "Whoever left a bomb there has to have realised they were going to hurt people."

Jack Straw, the Home Sec-

retary, described the incident as "an outrageous and mindless act" and it was also condemned by the Tory home affairs spokesman, Sir Norman Fowler.

The mood in Brixton yesterday was of disbelief. "It's madness," said one woman surveying the scene. "Why do they have to do this to all the good people?"

Shoppers cut down, page 6

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**THE INDEPENDENT**

### More readers, more success

THE INDEPENDENT'S circulation continues to rise. Audited figures for March show an increase of more than 4,000 copies on the previous month, from 220,203 a day in February to 224,306.

The paper also showed a substantial year-on-year increase at a time when all its rivals lost circulation. The Independent is selling 4 per cent more than it was this time in 1998. The Guardian has lost almost 4,000 copies a day year-on-year; The Times has fallen by 37,449, a loss of 4.8 per cent, while The Daily Telegraph is down 3 per cent, or 32,276 copies.

The Independent's share of the broadsheet market has also risen, to 9.27 per cent, its highest figure since November 1997.

The Independent on Sunday also increased its month-on-month circulation, rising from 252,100 in February to 255,982.

These rises come at a time when the paper's quality is being recognised with a host of major awards. At the What the Papers Say awards, Simon Kerner, editor of The Independent, was voted Editor of the Year, and David McKitterick, Ireland correspondent, was named Correspondent of the Year. In the British Press Awards, Deborah Ross was named Feature Writer of the Year and John Lichfield Foreign Reporter of the Year.

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PARTY ON

## WAR IN THE BALKANS

"The moment the mine exploded the children and their mother were thrown far away ... scattered around, one on this side, one on the other side, 10 metres or 15 metres away from the car".  
**Ibush Berisha, father of family killed by Serb landmine yesterday**

"We have been speaking to a zone commander in the Lapunik area and he has told us that two Yugoslav army units began shelling displaced persons in that area in the late afternoon".  
**Skopje-based Western diplomat who asked not to be named**

"There have been numerous refugee reports of Serb police assembling Kosovo Albanians ... They are being used by President Milosevic to dig graves for their countrymen killed by Serbian 'ethnic cleansing'".  
**Giuseppe Marani, Nato spokesman**

"We say to the sons of Kosovo: 'stay in your home and do not leave, fight these enemies with all means and be sure that God will be on your side'".  
**Mohammed Sayed Tantawi, the Grand Sheikh of al-Azhar mosque, Egypt's most senior Islamic cleric**

"It's [the conflict with Serbia] not over ... We're in the first 25 minutes of a two-hour movie. You can't predict how it is going to end from the first 25 minutes".  
**Kenneth Bacon, Pentagon spokesman**

"I've got two arms and one leg tied behind my back, while I'm hopping around trying to figure out the best way to conduct this mission".  
**General Wesley Clark, on the process by which officials from 19 Nato countries approve each target**

# 'No stability unless Milosevic goes'

ALMOST FOUR weeks on, the war over Kosovo yesterday was a tale of mounting air bombardment, more allied threats against Slobodan Milosevic, more murder and ethnic cleansing by the Serbs - yet there is still no real sign that Nato is close to launching the ground war its critics are demanding.

As Nato spokesmen claimed their aerial war of attrition has now wrecked Yugoslav air defences and destroyed the country's oil-refining capacity, Bill Clinton and Tony Blair made clear a change of regime in Belgrade was needed if refugees

were to return and stability to reign in the Balkans.

In separate interviews, the US President and the Prime Minister came closer than ever to making the removal of President Milosevic an outright goal of the campaign. Mr Blair said it was "extremely difficult to contemplate" Kosovo being in any sense under his rule once the conflict was over. In the longer term "we have to see how this man is not allowed to terrorise this region any more".

Mr Clinton spoke in similar terms, denouncing the "unspeakable violence of Europe's worst demagogue", and declaring that only a democratic transition in Serbia itself and the departure of Mr Milosevic could ensure future stability in the region.

Nato last night set out its latest evidence of that violence, claiming photographic proof of 43 mass grave sites in Kosovo, many of them dug by "chain gangs" of ethnic Albanians, forced to bury their countrymen killed by the Serbs.

Brigadier Giuseppe Marani, a Nato spokesman, provided chilling detail. He said Albanian prisoners were made to wear red-orange jackets. One picture alone depicted what he said

## BOMBING CAMPAIGN

BY RUPERT CORNWELL

might be 150 graves near Izbica, west of the Kosovo capital Pristina. Brigadier Marani said the sites were "neat rows" of graves pointing south-east towards Mecca, in accordance with Islamic burial tradition.

At least 3,000 ethnic Albanians are believed to have been killed by Serb forces in the last three weeks. Nor is there any let up in the tide of refugees - 40,000 more crossed at the weekend into Albania and Macedonia, on top of the 560,000

who had already fled the province. A similar number is uprooted and homeless within Kosovo, the United Nations says.

Nato still insists it has no immediate plans for a ground war, and will continue its aerial war of attrition, despite the fact that if the expulsions go on at their present rate, hardly an Albanian will be left within the province for any ground war to rescue.

According to the allies, yesterday's air raids - day 26 of the campaign - achieved a number of successes.

Jamie Shea, the Nato spokesman, declared that, with Yugoslav air defences reduced to an "ad hoc and makeshift" level, a wave of 36 allied planes had knocked out 13 enemy armoured vehicles in Kosovo.

In Serbia, Nato claimed to have destroyed the Pancevo oil refinery across the Danube from Belgrade, where orange flames and black smoke were billowing yesterday. "As of today, Milosevic no longer has the capacity to refine crude oil," Mr Shea said.

Every sign is that General Wesley Clark, Nato's Supreme Commander, is about to ratchet up the air offensive, using Apache helicopter gunships and tank-buster A-10 Warthogs, on the elusive Serb armoured units even at the risk of exposing them to hand-held surface-to-air missiles. Nato has also requested the use of Bulgarian air space, to get at Kosovo from the east as well as the west.

But - for the time being - no ground war. "Of course we are sending additional forces, additional planes, additional weapons to the region; all options are open," Mr Blair said.

"But the dangers of a land-force invasion are those we set out at the beginning." What was important was "to see the strategy we have through".

The Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, said it would take two or three months to assemble a sufficient force, "perhaps 10 times as large as the force already there". This risked an unacceptable level of casualties, he warned.

Nato planners also point to the hugely difficult access to Kosovo: across harsh mountainous terrain from Albania, and in the teeth of fierce political opposition from Macedonia.

## A wife and mother writes Mr Cook a very angry letter

MRS MILOSEVIC'S BROADSIDE

BY ROBERT FISK

IT'S NOT every day the wife of the Serbian leader writes to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs. Even rarer when she joins a note to the Foreign Office while the RAF is bombing her country. But Mira Markovic - childhood sweetheart and wife of President Slobodan Milosevic, Belgrade University professor of Marxism, and Serbian housewife (a very powerful one, it should be added) - is very angry.

"It was with some ten days' delay," she wrote yesterday in an open letter to Robin Cook, "that I learnt how you publicly stated that my children and I are not in Yugoslavia. My first reaction at hearing that was surprise. Could it be that the Foreign Minister of Great Britain has really nothing better to do than care what my children and I are doing?"

Irony, readers will have noted, is a principal ingredient of Mrs Markovic's letter - she used it to deadly effect in 1995, when she chastised the would-be defenders of the Serb cause in Bosnia and Croatia for idling away their hours in Belgrade restaurants. "I will allow that you may be idle," she now be-

rates Mr Cook, "that you do not have enough state affairs to attend to, and that you lack family and personal obligations, so that you spend much of your ample free time caring about other people's private lives."

Mrs Markovic and her two children, Marija and Marko, are very much in Yugoslavia, she says; the Milosevic family does not own five villas abroad, as the Foreign Secretary claimed. Yugoslavia is far too beautiful to waste money on such luxuries abroad, even if the President and his wife had the money to buy them - "we could hardly afford to, for financial reasons of course"; but by lying about them, Mr Cook "wanted to send a message to the world public that my children and I are dishonest and fearful. To your regret and to our fortune, you will not succeed in your intentions - not where my country nor my family are concerned."

Yugoslavia, Mrs Markovic adds, has become the "capital of international resistance" to world domination. The full flavour of her text, however, can only be appreciated by direct quotation. "My daughter is still an editor of the most popular

youth radio programme in Yugoslavia ... my son is in uniform and cares about his small new family. My children have highly developed patriotic sentiments, they are indeed courageous, rather smart and extremely beautiful ...

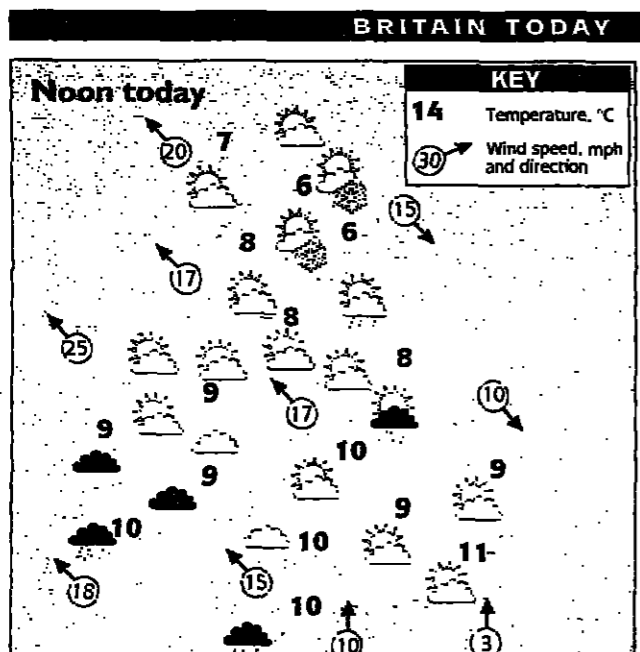
"As for me, every day, I am at the headquarters of the Party of the Yugoslav Left in which I am very active. The citizens of my country can watch me on TV news several times a week ... My children are in our place as all Yugoslavs. The fact that you think we fled our country reminds me of an old saying among my people - a thief thinks that everybody else is a thief."

Then comes the body-blow for Mr Cook. "How come you thought we fled? Perhaps because if a similar situation befell your country, you and your family would flee - if you had one, of course. I did not commence [this letter] with the customary 'dear sir', because you are not behaving like one."

Of course, there's an old saying among British people - that hell hath no fury like a woman scorned. But then again, Mr Cook probably knows that already.



President Slobodan Milosevic with his wife, Mira Markovic, who has written an open letter to Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary



**YESTERDAY**

**EXTREMES**

Warmest: Farnborough 12°C (54°F)

Cooldest: (day) Strathallan 4°C (39°F)

Wettest: Holbach 16.0 mm

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Station	Low	High	Max	Min
Aberdeen	4.6	0.3	6	4.3
Anglesey	10.6	0	9	4.8
Ayr	7.3	0.3	2	4.0
Belfast	10.7	1.3	10	5.0
Birmingham	0.7	1.0	6	4.3
Bournemouth	5.5	1.5	11	5.2
Bristol	0.4	1.2	9	4.8
Burton	0	0.9	5	4.1
Cardiff	1.8	0	11	5.2
Cheltenham	8.4	1.0	9	4.8
Cromer	4.1	2.3	9	3.8
Edinburgh	11.0	0	9	4.8
Exeter	7.9	0.5	9	4.8
Fishguard	4.2	0.3	12	5.4
Glasgow	9.3	0.5	11	5.0
Hastings	7.6	0.3	11	5.2
Hove	6.7	1.0	12	5.4
Isle of Man	10.6	0	9	4.8
Isle of Wight	10.1	0.8	12	5.4
Jersey	5.9	2.0	11	5.2
Leeds	1.0	1.0	7	4.5
Lerwick	11.4	1.8	7	4.5
Luton	9.1	1.2	12	5.4
London	7.2	1.3	13	5.5
Lowestoft	9.4	0	10	5.0
Manchester	0.9	4.3	7	4.5
Margate	8.3	3.6	11	5.2
Morcambe	3.2	0.3	9	4.8
Newcastle	9.3	1.0	9	4.8
Newquay	9.6	0.3	10	5.0
Norwich	6.2	6.2	10	5.0
Orford	4.9	0.3	10	5.0
Ross-on-Wye	0.8	0.3	9	4.8
Saltcomb	1.1	0	4	4.6
Scarborough	1.8	1.5	3	4.6
Southend	6.0	1.1	10	5.0
Southport	3.1	3.6	6	4.3
Swansea	6.9	0	11	5.2
Tenby	6.7	0.5	10	5.0
Torquay	11.3	0	13	5.5
Wexham	9.2	0	11	5.2

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# A deadly crop of mines is sown in Kosovo

## WEAPONS OF POWER

BY STEVE CRAWSHAW

THE FIVE Albanians who died yesterday when their car hit a landmine are unlikely to be the last to lose their lives in this way. In recent weeks, Yugoslav soldiers in Kosovo have been planting mines on the Serb side of the Albanian border, apparently in response to a potential assault by Nato ground troops.

Yesterday's deaths were the civilian "collateral" of what is intended primarily as a military defence. Crucially, however, there are an increasing number of reports that Serb forces are deliberately planting mines in civilian areas - to intimidate the Albanian population, forcing them to flee or making it impossible for them to return.

Anti-personnel mines have been placed in fields, schools, and houses. According to some reports, Albanians themselves are being used as forced mine-layers in parts of Kosovo.

Nato's force in Macedonia includes bomb-disposal engineers who are ready to deal with the mines in the event of a peace agreement. But that seems a long way off. Even if any peace deal were to be struck, experience suggests that it can take many years before all the mines are made safe. Children especially are vulnerable, treading on or picking up unusual objects while playing in woods or fields.

The use of anti-personnel mines has been condemned worldwide. A high-profile campaign against them succeeded in achieving the apparently unachievable. The internationally best-known figure in this campaign was Diana, Princess of Wales, famously photographed stepping through an Angolan minefield. Jody Williams, one of the co-ordinators of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, received a Nobel Peace Prize in 1997 for this campaign against all the odds - "a new way of moving humanitarian mountains", as it was described.

More than 130 countries last month finally signed up for the Ottawa treaty banning anti-personnel mines. The United States found itself in the company of Russia, China and North Korea resisting the treaty to the bitter end. Yugoslavia signed the accord. But, following an increasingly familiar pattern in Belgrade, the promises soon proved to be worth rather less than the paper they were written on.

Serbs began laying mines in Kosovo even as their officials signed up for the Ottawa treaty. Anti-tank mines are not outlawed, but the Serbs also use anti-personnel mines, which include tiny devices just a few inches across that can kill or maim an individual, and more powerful mines which can kill a number of people at once.



The wreckage of the car blown up by a landmine yesterday at the Yugoslav-Albanian border in Morina, killing five Kosovo Albanian refugees

Anja Niedringhaus

## CONVENTIONS BEING VIOLATED

IF ACCOUNTS of Serb atrocities are accurate, Yugoslav officials and commanders could be prosecuted by The Hague war-crimes tribunal. The basis of humanitarian law is the four Geneva Conventions and the treaty banning land-mines.

130 countries, including Yugoslavia, last month signed the Ottawa treaty banning anti-personnel mines. Anti-tank mines are not outlawed but the Serbs are laying mines in the path of fleeing civilians.

Persecution of doctors. "Under no circumstances shall any person be punished for carrying out medical activities compatible with medical ethics, regardless of the person benefiting therefrom." Article 15

Bombardment of villages. "The parties to the conflict shall at all times distinguish between the civilian population and ... direct their operations only against military objectives." Article 48

Attacks on civilians. "Acts or threats of violence the primary purpose of which is to spread terror among the civilian population are prohibited." Article 51

Destruction of farms. "It is prohibited to attack, destroy, remove or render useless objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population, such as foodstuffs, agricultural areas for the production of foodstuffs, crops [and]

livestock". Article 54

Parading of captives on TV. Article 75 prohibits "outrages upon personal dignity, in particular humiliating and degrading treatment".

Rape and indecent assault. "Women shall be the object of special respect and shall be protected in particular against rape, forced prostitution and any other form of indecent assault." Article 76

Responsibility. "The fact that a breach of the Conventions of this Protocol was committed by a subordinate does not absolve his superiors from penal or disciplinary responsibility". Article 86

RICHARD LLOYD PARRY

# 'He returned to demand the children's bodies'

FROM FRONT PAGE

have been left on the other side of the border," said Ibush. "We carried the first three out, but when we went back to take the others, the Serbian police forbade us to do so on the pretext that the area was mined."

Hajrie's mutilated body lay in a medical tent at the border yesterday, covered in a grey blanket.

Since the Albanian border police could not, or would not help, Mustafa courageously walked back, against the flow of terrified, exhausted refugees, to the Serbian side to demand the return of the children's bodies.

We watched him walk alone, fearful yet hopeful that the Serbs would do the right thing. But when he returned a few minutes later, he brought a grim message: there was really only one body left - the others were in pieces, as Ibush feared - and it had been taken to the morgue in Prizren. Mustafa could collect it - if he could find a car to take him back.

By then, however, he was too frightened to return 20km into Serbian territory. Instead he waited in the rain for an ambulance to collect Hajrie's body.

"I know that in war there are victims, but it is so hard when it happens to you," he said. "Lavdie was such a good girl, she did all the chores without ever complaining, and she was good at school too," he continued, refusing an offer of food, despite having spent two days on the road without eating or sleeping.

"Besnik was riding on the tractor at first, but we picked up so many people along the road that the trailer filled up and I sent him to travel in the car, saying he would be better there. He refused to go at first," Mustafa said, tears welling. "I met so many people in a critical state and I couldn't leave them there, so I put them in the trailer."

It was a typical Kosovan gesture. These people have shown the very best side of human nature, despite being forced from their homes at gunpoint, robbed, beaten and, in the case of many of the women, raped.

On Saturday, journalists attended the simple, sombre funeral of a woman tortured by the Serbs because her son was believed to be a Kosovan rebel. She was found by other Kosovars, her wrists broken, and



A Kosovar in mourning for the Berisha family

brought to Albania, where she died. She was buried by her compatriots, though they did not know her name.

"I was so afraid, when we reached the border, that the Serbs might split up the family, separate the men from the women, that was the only fear I had, I didn't think about a mine in the road," Mustafa said. "Before the mine exploded, four or five Serb policemen stopped us and searched us for money and documents - they wanted 200 Deutschmarks to let us go."

After the explosion: "The Serbs came to us immediately, and said 'Why did you drive over the mine? You must go now and you are lucky, because it could have been worse.'"

The answer comes from Ibush. "There was no warning on the road to tell us this zone was mined, and no one said this to us," he explained.

The Berishas' story is not so different from those of thousands of compatriots murdered, brutalised, humiliated and expelled by President Slobodan Milosevic's forces. "We left on Friday at 6pm. An hour before the Serbs came with guns and ordered us to leave," Mustafa explained.

Hitting the mine, that added tragedy, is all that distinguishes them from the 296,456 other Kosovars who have crossed the Morina border post in the past three weeks.

All we can hope is that one day the Serbian people, in whose names these many crimes are being committed, will understand and accept the evil done by Mr Milosevic. And that the people of Kosovo will somehow see justice and their right to live in peace. In their own land, prevail over tyranny. But, of course, it will all come too late for the Berisha family.

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## Readers giving generously

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### KOSOVO APPEAL

READERS OF The Independent have donated more than £550,000 to help refugees driven from their homes in Kosovo.

Against a backdrop of further expulsions by the Serb militias, money is continuing to pour in to provide food, clothes and medicine.

Well over 500,000 Kosovar Albanians have been forced out of their homes or have fled to avoid violence and killing. They arrive at the borders with Albania, Macedonia, Bosnia and

Montenegro tired, exhausted and terrified. They also have only the most meagre of possessions and usually just the clothes they are wearing.

The appeal launched by The Independent is one of several co-ordinated by the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC). So far, £15m has been raised.

Last week the DEC urged readers to keep sending what they can: "The efforts of your readers have been fantastic, but now is no time to give up."

HOW TO MAKE A DONATION

Send a cheque or postal order to:

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Disasters Emergency Committee  
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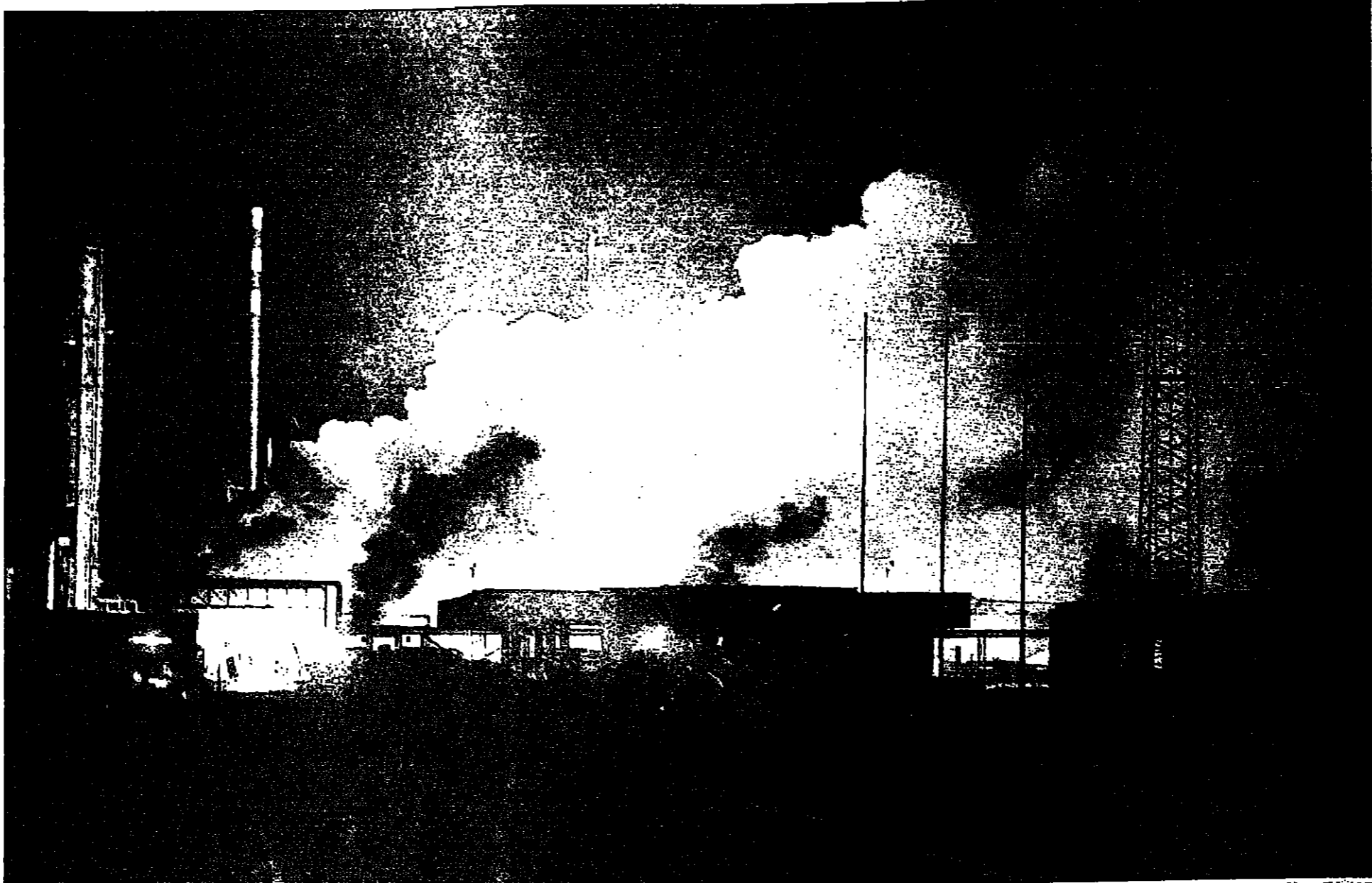
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Smoke and flames billowing from a fertiliser plant early yesterday in Pancevo, some 10 miles north of Belgrade, after an attack by Nato bombers

Strijan Ilic/AP

## Nato backtracks on convoy massacre pilot recording

### CONVOY TRAGEDY

BY STEPHEN CASTLE in Brussels

THE AFTERMATH of Nato's accidental bombing of refugees in Kosovo provoked fresh embarrassment yesterday, and an admission that a recording, portrayed as the pilot's account, may be unrelated to the incident.

In the face of a public statement by the Pentagon contradicting the account given by Nato, Brigadier General Giuseppe Marani backtracked at a briefing in Brussels yesterday, describing the tape, broadcast last Thursday, as an "example" of the type of mission being flown.

The continuing confusion surrounding the episode, acknowledged as the worst case of accidental death brought about by Nato, has clouded at-

tempts by the Western allies to put the event behind them. But the episode has also provoked soul-searching about the alliance's ability to win a propaganda war against Belgrade.

On Saturday, a US Navy spokesman, Steve Pietropaoli, illustrated new tensions between Nato headquarters and the Pentagon when he said that the "F-16 pilot on the audiotape is not thought to be responsible in any way for anything other than the attack that he described on a military vehicle".

He added that, if a Nato briefers suggested the target turned out to be civilian, "then that is not accurate as I understand the facts".

The Pentagon is particular-

ly sensitive about the incident because a US pilot was widely blamed.

General Marani sowed more doubt yesterday, arguing that the tape was broadcast "to clarify what was the process, the procedure of a pilot involved in an action of this type". He added: "The relationship of that specific pilot or a narrative of that and specific events on the ground will be clarified".

Jamie Shea, Nato's chief spokesman, also declined to enlighten journalists, arguing that, with investigations still continuing at the alliance's mil-

itary headquarters, he had no further information.

Mr Shea launched a fresh attack on the Serb media, contrasting his need to justify and explain Nato's actions with the lack of accountability in Belgrade. Meanwhile, it emerged that Nato has been offered advice on its media handling by Alastair Campbell, Tony Blair's spokesman, and that Downing Street has urged Mr Shea to release no further information about the circumstances of the convoy bombing.

Sources confirmed that Nato's press operation in Brus-

sels is to be bolstered. Julian Braithwaite, a Balkan expert seconded by the Foreign Office to Downing Street's press office, is expected to be among the support personnel sent from Nato capitals.

However, the intervention of Mr Campbell has provoked debate in Brussels about the presentational dangers of being seen to "spin" the story. Some insiders are worried that Mr Shea, generally regarded as doing a good job in tough circumstances, might be pressured to perform in a less convincing way.

The failure to clarify the details of the refugee bombing overshadowed Nato's claims of military successes yesterday, as the long-awaited tank-

busting Apache helicopters were finally en route for Tirana, the Albanian capital.

Nato has ordered 24 Apache gunships, equipped with Hellfire rockets, to attack around 300 tanks which Air Marshal Sir John Day, deputy chief of the British defence staff, has estimated are operating in Kosovo.

Officials declined to comment on Serb media reports of civilian casualties during air attacks on Batujnica, northwest of Belgrade. The Yugoslav media reported that Nato struck more bridges yesterday in Serbia, including a major rail link to Kosovo.

Letters, Review page 3  
Leading article, Review page 3

## Serbs stirred by memory of their Kosovo exodus

### PURGES OF THE PAST

BY ROBERT FISK in Belgrade

THERE ARE no files in Nebojsa Vujovic's bookcases, no computers in the ante-rooms of the Yugoslav ministry of foreign affairs. If Nato bombs this most elegant of Belgrade buildings, there will be no equipment to smash, no archives to burn. Mr Vujovic was Yugoslavia's man in Washington, charge d'affaires to the Federal Republic on the eve of Nato's bombardment. He knows the risks.

And he knows how to deflect the questions of devious journalists. Is Nato's bombardment not similar to the assault on Iraq in 1991, I ask. He has not time for such parallels. "In the case of Iraq, one state occupied the sovereign territory of another, Kuwait - Serbia has not done that. And Iraq launched missiles at ... Israel, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia. And Serbia has not done that. ... We are a small European nation which has been attacked and is trying to protect its territorial integrity. Kosovo is part of the Serbian nation. It is the history of Serbia. Without a heart, we have no nation."

And there you have it. The entire Serb doctrine summed up in one crisp Vujovic paragraph. "Kosovo is Serbia's heart and no body can function without a heart," he adds - and he should know. Mr Vujovic, official spokesman for the Yugoslav foreign ministry, is from Kosovo and his anger is palpable. "My father and my whole family were expelled from Kosovo-Metohija in 1966 ... During the Second World War the ratio of population there was 60 per cent non-Albanians to 40 per cent Albanians. Then came the Italian occupation, when 175,000 Serbs moved out. And they were not allowed to return because Tito imposed martial law in 1947, forbidding the Serb refugees to return.

Why? Because Tito dreamed of an even greater Balkan federation, including Albania. ... History drifts across the office, an exclusively Serb history, but one which historians would not all dispute. In 1942 Serb sources recorded 100,000 Serbs fleeing Albanian attacks. After the war Tito's adviser, Edward Kardelj - not Tito - told the central committee "the

basis solely by political means." There is no reference to Nato. The paper carries the names of Mr Rugova and Mr Milosevic. Is there any chance, I ask, to see Mr Rugova to chat about this meeting. Perhaps it can be arranged, Mr Vujovic says. I suggest a meeting. Mr Vujovic says he will see what he can do. The Independent is waiting.

But Mr Vujovic is not finished. "Why is Nato turning Kosovo-Metohija into a global war? Because if you prove Nato's credentials in Kosovo-Metohija, you will have reason to celebrate its ... 50th anniversary of global policing. But ... Kosovo-Metohija is Serbia. And ... we will fight and continue to fight and continue to fight." The repetition is intended. Turks, Bulgarians, Germans, Italians. Had not Serbia defeated all its occupiers?

And then, suddenly, I am introduced to the multi-ethnic Kosovo that every Serbian wants. "Kosovo without both Serbs and Albanians is no solution. It must remain a multi-ethnic place as part of Serbia. Rugova had tried to introduce a republic through the back door - a separate assembly, a separate judiciary and after three years a 'final status' ... based on the will of the Kosovo people" ... Come on, we're not so naive! The citizens of this country should come back to Kosovo. They should not be in other countries. And Serbia could then reduce some of its forces (in Kosovo) ...

So all is for the best, it seems, in the best of all possible worlds. The Kosovo Albanians can return to their homes and the disciplined, professional Serb police forces can be reduced in strength while Mr Milosevic and Mr Rugova talk peace. No wonder the Serbs ask why they are being bombed.

So did Mr Rugova demand an end to Nato bombing after his meeting with Mr Milosevic - as Serb television said - or a peaceful solution, which is not the same thing? Mr Vujovic hands me a document dated 1 April, printed by the "Directorate of Information". Messrs Rugova and Milosevic met in Belgrade, it says, noting "... that the problems could be resolved ... and on a lasting

best solution would be if Kosovo were to be united with Albania but ... it must remain a compact province within the framework of Serbia." Census figures suggest the Serb decline after Tito's 1966 reversal of anti-Albanian policies was 50,000 rather than the 200,000 now publicised by Serb newspapers. But Mr Vujovic goes further. "About 250,000 Serbs were expelled between 1966 and 1981 ... And after the Albanians took over the complete administration in Kosovo another 250,000 Serbs were expelled."

With history like this at his elbow, it is not surprising Mr Vujovic has no time for stories of Albanian refugees flocking



Vujovic: The Belgrade spin

### TIMETABLE: DAYS 25 & 26

#### Saturday 17 April

3.00pm: Nato displays aerial photos of what it claimed may be up to 150 fresh graves near the Kosovo town of Izbica.

5.00pm: US officials say that a Yugoslav army officer captured by the KLA is handed over to US forces as prisoner of war. 6.30pm: General Wesley Clark, Nato's supreme allied commander for Europe (Saceur), goes on a fact-finding visit to the US air base at Aviano in Italy where the airman who bombed the refugee column in error are based. 7.00pm: UN officials report that more than 23,000 refugees had crossed into Albania, at a rate of 1,000 an hour. 8.00pm: Macedonians rally in Skopje against Nato bombings. 11.00pm: Nato pounds Serbia's second-largest city, Novi Sad, and targets in Belgrade area. Serb

claim five people injured in an attack in Batujnica, 12 miles northwest of Belgrade, where a military airfield is located.

Sunday 18 April  
2.10am: State television reports warplanes hitting Slatina airport near Pristina in a blitz that goes on until dawn. 2.45am: Five Kosovo Albanian refugees are killed when their car hits a landmine near the Albanian border. 2.00pm: State media reported a three-year-old girl was killed by shrapnel from a Nato bomb in Batujnica. 3.30pm: Nato warplanes attack northwest of Pristina, in Kosovo. 5.50pm: First batch of more than 300 refugees arrives in Lyons, France. 6.00pm: Yugoslavia breaks diplomatic relations with Albania, accusing Tirana of siding with Nato.

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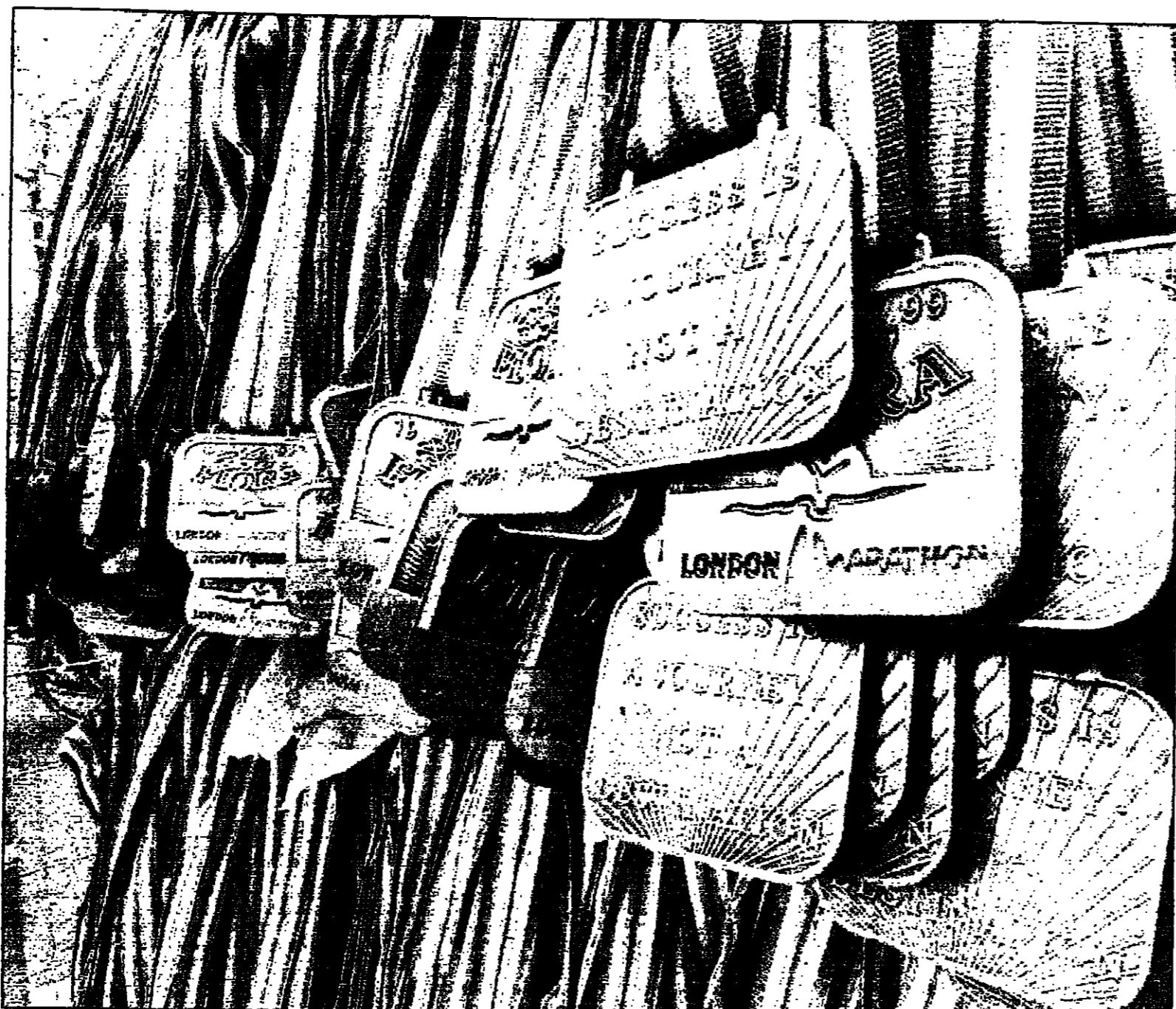
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Medals awaiting competitors at the finish of yesterday's London Marathon, in which more than 30,000 people took part. Abdelkader El Mouaziz of Morocco won the men's race, and Joyce Chepchumba of Kenya the women's; Full report, Sport Section, p12 David Ashdown

# Study guides for kids turn bestsellers

CHILDREN AS young as seven are being drilled for national tests as parents snap up hundreds of thousands of revision guides and practice papers.

One publisher reports that sales of revision guides and papers have quadrupled. Last month, for the first time, national curriculum test booklets reached the non-fiction best-seller charts, alongside books such as *Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus*.

More than 1.2 million 11 and 14-year-olds are preparing to sit tests in English, maths and science next month and tests for seven-year-olds are already under way.

Some teachers complain that 11-year-olds are too young for a systematic programme of revision and that pressure on pupils to succeed is driving out traditional childhood pursuits. They say children are being drilled as they were in the days of the 11-plus.

BY JUDITH JUDD  
Education Editor

over 600,000 titles in its revision and test series. Its practice papers for 11-year-olds in English, maths and science have sold 50,000 apiece and its reading tests for seven-year-olds 35,000. Sales are well up on last year.

Pearson Education reports tens of thousands of sales of tests for seven and 11-year-olds and a four-fold increase on last year. More than 30,000 booklets of past papers produced by the Stationery Office have been sold.

Hayley Lewis of Letts Educational said: "When we brought out these books we had lots of people saying that we should not be encouraging children to get formal (testing) so young but now teachers and parents want children to get used to the format of the tests."

Jill Jones, managing director of Pearson Education's study guide division, said: "The feedback we have is that parents are extremely anxious about the tests."

Government exam advisers are offering encouragement to parents to help their children revise. David Hawker, head of the

Qualifications and Curriculum Authority curriculum and assessment division, said: "Our general guidance is that you shouldn't spend too much time preparing your children but you should enable them to do well."

"It is helpful for parents to look at past papers but revision should not consist simply of churning through them. It is most effective to focus on specific aspects such as spelling or punctuation or mental arithmetic."

He added that parents should make sure that children did not get over-anxious about the tests.

Gwen Evans, deputy general secretary of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers, said there had been a change of culture in primary schools "and that change has its down side, including anxiety. It is depressing to go into book shops and find there are more 'get your child through the tests' books than children's books."

"There is much more pressure on children than there used to be. Part of me feels that 11-year-olds shouldn't be revising but many of our members feel they have to go along with the tidal wave."

## Murdoch attacks Dyke's BBC hopes

BY PAUL MCCANN  
Media Editor

THE RACE for the post of director-general of the BBC took an ugly turn this weekend with the beginning of a "stop Dyke" campaign targeted at the front-runner, Greg Dyke, the chairman of Pearson Television.

Mr Dyke, 51, who introduced the cartoon character Roland Rat to the nation's homes, has seen his chances of succeeding Sir John Birt in April 2000 battered by a two-page assault in Rupert Murdoch's *Times* newspaper. The paper revealed that Mr Dyke had made donations worth £50,000 to the Labour Party since 1994 and is known to be planning a follow-up article on how the next director-general needs to have journalistic experience - Mr Dyke spent only a few years as a journalist before moving into programme-making and management.

At least part of the inspiration for the attack is thought to come from the paper's owner, Mr Murdoch. Mr Dyke is a non-executive director of Manchester United and he bitterly opposed the attempt by Mr Murdoch's BSkyB to buy the club. The take-over was thrown out by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission earlier this month and the assault on Mr Dyke is seen



Greg Dyke: Front-runner to be next director-general

as the first sign of Mr Murdoch getting his revenge.

Other opponents of Mr Dyke's candidacy come from inside the BBC, where senior executives who have risen to the top on the back of Sir John Birt's management reforms are worried that they might be reversed by an outsider. Mr Dyke is said to favour supporting programme-makers over managers and bureaucrats.

Mr Dyke's status as a front-runner is based largely on the fact that he is still in the race with just six weeks to go before the winner is announced. "The fact that neither Blair nor Bland (Sir Christopher Bland, chairman of the BBC govern-

nors) has told Greg to stand aside must mean they think he can be appointed without a political storm," one senior BBC insider said last week.

Sir Christopher, the Tory-appointed BBC chairman, worked with Mr Dyke at London Weekend Television when Mr Dyke was director of programmes and then group chief executive between 1987 and 1994. Both Mr Bland and Mr Dyke made millions of pounds from an LWT "golden handcuffs" share deal when LWT was fighting a takeover bid from Granada.

Another television executive who was made a millionaire by the LWT share scheme is Barry Cox, a former neighbour of Tony Blair who helped raise £72,000 for the Prime Minister's Labour leadership campaign in 1994. Among those who contributed was Mr Dyke.

Despite Conservative Party claims of cynicism, Mr Cox was appointed deputy chairman of Channel 4 in February. The Government handled the criticism by pointing out that the appointment was made by the Independent Television Commission. Industry observers believe the Government will try to defuse a row if Mr Dyke gets the job by maintaining the appointment is the work of the BBC governors.

### IN BRIEF

#### Man arrested over Derby killing

POLICE CARRYING out a nationwide hunt for the killer of Margaret Thomson have arrested a 37-year-old man. Derbyshire police said yesterday. Ms Thomson, 38, a chambermaid who had two children, was found battered to death in a flat in Chaddesden, Derby, on Friday.

#### Top Irish judge resigns

THE IRISH Supreme Court judge Mr Justice Hugh O'Flaherty resigned at the weekend, thus averting a possible Dail impeachment, following the unexplained reduction of a jail term imposed on a Dublin man for dangerous driving causing the death of a 36-year-old woman.

#### Six charged after £10m drug find

SIX MEN have been charged with smuggling drugs with an estimated street value of £10m into Britain. The men were arrested on Friday and Saturday after Customs officers followed a tanker from Hull. It is alleged that half a tonne of cannabis resin and 100 kilos of amphetamine were hidden in drums sunk into the tanker's cargo of industrial shampoo.

#### Cancer treatment may be flawed

TREATMENT FOR one of the hardest-to-cure cancers may be off-target, according to researchers at University College London. They suspect that patients with follicular lymphoma may relapse because chemotherapy misses some cancerous cells that are in a "resting" state.

#### Cost of 'compensation culture'

BRITAIN is being smothered by a "compensation culture" costing £6.8bn a year in legal fees, the Centre for Policy Studies says. The threat of facing legal action was stifling risk-taking and innovation and damaging human relations.

#### Women drivers lose direction

WOMEN DRIVERS aged 36 to 45 are most likely to get lost on a new route while men aged 17 to 25 make the least map-reading mistakes, an RAC survey has found. London was unanimously voted the most difficult city to navigate.

## Survey says NHS is 'ageist'

BY JEREMY LAURANCE  
Health Editor

ONE IN twenty elderly people claims to have been refused treatment on the NHS because of age, according to a survey.

Family doctors were the main culprits blamed for taking less interest in older people, and for delaying treatment and saying that the money would be better spent on treating younger patients.

The Gallup poll of 1,600 people over 50, conducted for Age Concern, found one in ten had noticed a change of attitude among doctors and nurses since passing their half-century.

Sally Greengross, director general of Age Concern, said the "don't care-won't care" attitude must end. "All older people should be entitled to the good quality healthcare which is currently enjoyed by the lucky few. We will not be fobbed off any longer."

However, some experts believe doctors who do not refer older patients may be trying to protect them from undergoing stressful hospital tests.

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## BRIXTON BOMBING

## Shoppers cut down in hail of nails and broken glass

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

ALL THAT Wayne Pegus wanted were yams and bananas in the street market on Electric Avenue in Brixton, south-west London. But that early evening shopping trip will haunt him for life.

"I was just talking to a friend and all of a sudden I heard a great bang," he said from his bed in King's College Hospital. "When I looked down at my hand my finger had disappeared. I thought it was magic. I could not believe it had happened. When I looked again I realised it was not magic and that it had happened. My finger was just hanging there - it was shredded."

The remains of the little finger of his left hand have been amputated.

Mr Pegus, 55, a father of six from Peckham, south London, was knocked to the ground when the nail bomb exploded in the crowded market on Saturday. Apart from the hand injury, he suffered a number of other wounds, including one to his back. He had been standing just 20ft from where the bomb exploded.

"I saw people lying around on the ground screaming and bleeding," he said. "It was chaos. I was so shocked, especially when I saw my hand."

"That split second... I was bleeding all over my body. I felt a lot of pain. My finger was just like mince meat."

"I feel disgusted about this thing. How could they do such



Wayne Pegus recovering after surgery at King's College Hospital. Right: Police clearing and sifting debris from the nail-bomb blast in the crowded street market that left 39 people injured

a thing like this? I cannot use words to describe these people. You cannot explain why they would do such a thing."

Police say the bomb appeared designed to inflict injuries to people rather than damage to property. If that was its aim, it was successful.

Fourteen victims are still in hospital with injuries from flying debris - mostly nails and broken glass.

Four casualties are in seri-

ous condition. Two men, one aged 51, the other 62, suffered eye injuries that could result in blindness. "At this stage it is still too early to say," said Nick Samuels, a spokesman for King's College Hospital.

The other two seriously injured victims have head and spinal injuries.

A total of 39 people were injured in Saturday's explosion. Thirty were taken to hospital by ambulance and the other nine

made their own way there. Hospital officials said people were also treated for trauma.

Many of the staff at the hospital, which is less than a mile from the site of the blast, were also shocked. "People shop there, some of us live in the area," said Mr Samuels.

Sister Karen Swinson, who was in charge of the hospital's accident and emergency unit, said: "We removed nails from faces, heads, legs and arms.

There were pieces of glass and some very nasty injuries.

Three operating theatres worked through the night - some under the supervision of Professor Charles Polkey, the neurologist who treated Josie Russell, the young girl who suffered grievous head injuries in a hammer attack in rural Kent that killed her mother and sister.

In the worst cases, patients with multiple injuries were

treated by a number of specialist teams including neurological, maxillo-facial, spinal and eye experts.

Off-duty staff, including people on maternity leave, came in to the hospital to help.

At Great Ormond Street Hospital, a 23-month-old boy underwent surgery to remove a nail embedded in his brain.

The nail - about 10cms long - had penetrated 2cms into his brain and was removed during

a 90-minute operation. "We are now carrying out tests to try and find out if there has been any permanent damage," said a hospital spokeswoman. "But he ate breakfast this morning and he seems to be well."

The procedure, carried out by the neurosurgeon Dr John Wadley, is known as a craniotomy and involves making a small hole in the skull to remove the nail.

"The doctors are hopeful that the child will make a full and complete recovery but obviously it is early stages," added the spokeswoman.

HORROR  
OF THE  
NAIL BOMB

THOUGH THE nail bomb has been used fairly regularly by terrorist groups and individuals overseas, cases on the British mainland have been rare.

A vicious device, designed to inflict maximum personal injury rather than damage to property, it is at its most potent against crowds. Britain's worst atrocity remains the IRA's attack on the Household Cavalry in London's Hyde Park, which left four soldiers and seven horses dead. The bomb, containing 25lb (11kg) of gelignite surrounded by four- and six-inch nails and hidden in a car, was detonated by remote control as a squad of 16 rode past on 20 July, 1982. Two hours later an explosion at a Regent's Park bandstand killed seven more soldiers.

Three years ago, at the Atlanta Olympics, a nail device killed one woman, wounded 110 others and caused the fatal heart attack of a television cameraman.

Paris has been hit by repeated nail-bombings. In December 1996, two people died and 80 were injured when a device went off on a train. Two similar devices injured a total of 30 people in 1995. Islamic extremist groups were blamed for the French attacks.



## Crazy loner with racist motive is suspected

SUSPICION WAS growing last night that the Brixton bomb was the act of a lone fanatic rather than an organised terrorist group. With Scotland Yard still not having received any claim of responsibility for Saturday's explosion in south London, speculation was also mounting on the streets of Brixton last night that it was a deliberate attack on the heart of Britain's black community.

As the Metropolitan Police insisted they were keeping "all avenues" of inquiry open, sources suggested that the police did not believe it was the work of an extreme right-wing group such as Combat 18. Gerry Gable, the publisher of the anti-fascist magazine Searchlight agreed. "This is a horrific act. If it turns out to have a racist basis we do not believe it will be an organised group but a crazy individual," he said.

Mr Gable, whose organisation monitors racist activity in Britain, said the extreme-right groups are in disarray at the moment in the wake of the inquiry into the murder of the black teenager Stephen Lawrence. "Perhaps it is some lone extremist who has sat at home watching the news and seen the sympathy for the Lawrence family and has got angry," he said.

However, Brixton-based black rights campaigner Lee Jasper said the bomb could have been the work of a racially motivated far-right group. Brixton has a high proportion of ethnic minority residents and is well-known as a centre of black culture and the scene of race riots in the Eighties.

Mr Jasper said: "What we could potentially be witnessing is a backlash against the huge amount of coverage given to the Stephen Lawrence case. A nail bomb in the Brixton market could only be intended to inflict the maximum damage possible to the black community."

BY PAUL LASHMAR  
AND IAN BURRELL

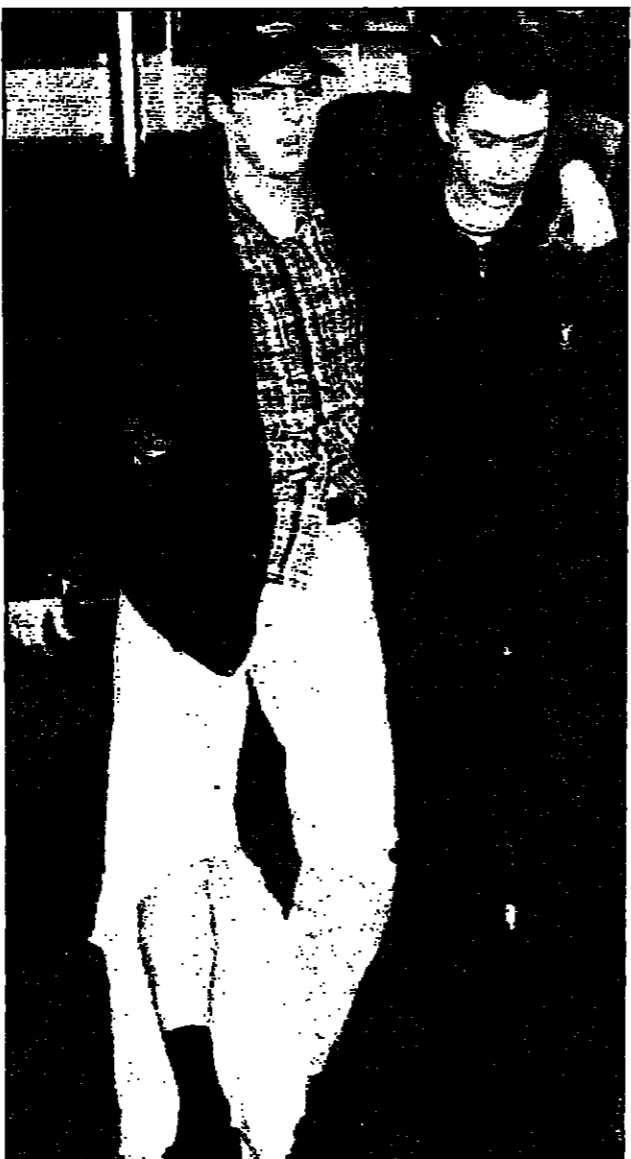
Mr Gable was himself was the target of letter-bomb attack by right-wingers nearly five years ago. The device was sent to his home but he became suspicious of the package and called in the bomb squad who defused it.

In 1995, Combat 18 - which gets its name from the initials of Adolf Hitler - were behind a plot to send parcel bombs to sports stars in mixed-race relationships. A key figure in the British terrorist group ordered Danish neo-Nazis to post bombs to figures, including swimmer Sharron Davies and boxers Frank Bruno and Kriss Akabusi. Three Danes were later jailed for the plot.

Neither would the Brixton bomb be the first time the extreme right have manufactured a nail bomb. The British National Party leader, Anthony Lecomber, was jailed for manufacturing a nail bomb. In 1985 he was on his way to plant the device outside the left-wing Workers Revolutionary Party headquarters in Clapham, south London, when it went off prematurely.

It certainly would not be hard for a single fanatic to make a nail bomb. Instructions for bomb-making have appeared in anarchist and survivalist manuals and on the Internet. The Nebraska-based national socialist organisation of Gary Lauck was suspected in the mid Nineties of mailing out a computer disc called "Endsiege" (Final Victory) to sympathisers which contained bomb-making instructions.

The Home Office minister Kate Hoey moved to play down the idea of a race motive in this weekend's attack. Ms Hoey, whose Vauchall constituency is near the scene of the bombing, said: "I would not want to rule anything out but I would be very



One of the wounded limping away after the nail bomb explosion in Brixton on Saturday Peter Macdiarmid

surprised if there is any kind of racist motive in it."

Scotland Yard has already ruled out the involvement of Northern Ireland paramilitary groups. Commander Hugh Orde, Metropolitan Police head of crime for south-west London, said he was otherwise looking at "all avenues". "Clearly the person who set this off is disturbed and has no regard for human life," he said.

Another possible theory is that the bomb was to be used in a dispute involving Yardie gangsters, who have been implicated in a recent series of shootings and murders in the area. The Jamaican gangs are notorious for gun crime and extreme violence, usually associated with the drugs trade. Although the feuds are becoming increasingly violent, murders are most commonly shootings.

Some observers believe that the crude device was the work of a lone bomber with a grudge.

In 1989, science student Matthew Williams was jailed for attempting to use a nail bomb to bring carnage to a Liverpool shopping street simply because he "hated people".

The Brixton bombing also occurred in the same week that the Mardi Gra blackmailer, Edward Pierce, who had set off explosive devices at supermarkets and shopping precincts across London, was jailed for 21 years.

But James Wylie, an international security expert at the University of Aberdeen, said the bomber was almost certain to have had a political motive and the most likely explanation was that the attack was linked to the Nato action in the Balkans. He said: "The nature of Serbian resistance is such that sooner or later, there will be signs of Serbian discontent running right through Europe the same as we have seen with the Palestinians."



The site of the blast in Electric Avenue

## 'Someone looked at it and said: It's ticking'

**Saturday 17 April 5.15pm:** A new, dark blue 'Head' sports holdall is discovered in a bus-stop near Electric Avenue in Brixton, south London. According to reports three youths take the bag but then discard it next to the Boots store in Electric Avenue.

The bag is noticed by traders, busy selling fruit and vegetables from the stalls. "What it was doing there, I don't know," said stallholder Mark Murphy. "Someone said there was a bomb in there. I didn't look myself."

**5.20pm:** The bag is picked up by Gary Shilling, 15, who moves it from outside Boots and places it on a pallet next to the Iceland supermarket, at the junction of Electric Avenue and Brixton Road. Someone shouts at the teenager and he runs off. Word starts to circulate that the bag contains a bomb. No one really believes it. People take it in turns to have a

**BY WARWICK MANSELL AND ANDREW BUNCOMBE**

look and give it a poke with their feet.

**5.21pm:** Stallholders watch in amazement as a "crackhead" opens the bag and takes out what appears to be a tupperware container, taped to a cardboard box with wires protruding - and then makes off with the bag.

"Everyone was saying to him, 'There's a bomb in there, leave it alone,' but he just wanted the bag which was brand new," said stallholder Lee Walden.

"He picked out the bomb, which was a lunch box sitting on top of a cardboard box, put it on the pallets then walked off muttering about it being a nice new bag." Mr Murphy added: "Everyone was laughing. [They only became serious] when someone looked at it and said, 'It's ticking.'"

Soon someone calls the security guard from Iceland

who examines the bomb and calls his manager Paul Mascall. It is understood Mr Mascall called the police, who time that call at

**5.26pm:** Mr Mascall was later injured in the blast and taken to King's College Hospital.

**5.28pm:** The first police officers arrive at the scene in two marked cars, and try to move shoppers and stallholders away.

**5.30pm:** While the officers are evacuating people the bomb explodes, sending nails and glass flying. "One officer said to me, 'So where is it?'," said Mr Walden. "I pointed, then it went off as I was talking. It blew me off my feet. I got up and started running with hands over my ears."

**5.35pm:** More emergency services arrive, including 13 fire engines, 20 ambulances and a police helicopter. Rumours reach police of a second device at nearby Mothercare. It proves false.

## Toddler brain surgery success

BY KATE WATSON-SMYTH

A LITTLE boy aged 23 months was recovering in hospital today after complex surgery to remove a four-inch nail embedded in his head by the bomb blast.

The boy was said to be lucky to be alive after two centimetres (just less than an inch) of the nail lodged in his brain.

Surgeons at London's Great Ormond Street Hospital took 90 minutes to extricate the nail early yesterday in a procedure known as a craniotomy.

They had to repair and replace essential bone protecting the his brain, where the nail punctured the skull.

The surgeons had first removed tiny layers of skin, muscle and membrane from the head and made a series of small holes in the skull. Then they sawed between the holes and lifted back a small amount of bone like a lid, revealing first the membrane lining of the brain (known as the dura) then the brain itself.

Last night the boy was "happy and contented and wondering what all the fuss was about," said a hospital spokeswoman.

The neurosurgery was overseen by leading consultant Dominic Thompson - who said he did not expect any complications.

The spokeswoman added: "The nail entered the left frontal region of the boy's brain and caused superficial injuries to the brain. But it didn't affect any of his central brain."

"There was also no major damage to any of his vessels. It was not a complex operation in neurosurgery terms, but it was still brain surgery."

She added: "They expect him to make a full recovery. We are keeping him under very close observation on the ward for the next few days."

The boy, who has not been named, had been transferred from St Thomas's Hospital to the neurosurgery ward at Great Ormond Street for a brain scan.

His mother and father are at his bedside.

John

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Helpless40 WEEK IN WEEK OF THE DISAPPEARANCE: HOWARD IN  
BY JOHN WATSON RICHARD JONES JANE LANGRISH

# HORROR OF THE NAIL BOMB

THE nail bomb has been used fairly regularly by terrorists and individuals overseas, but cases on the British mainland have been rare.

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Three years ago, at the Atlanta Olympics, a nail bomb killed one woman, wounded 110 others and caused the fatal heart attack of a television cameraman.

But it has been hit by repeated nail-bombing: in December 1996, two people died and 60 were injured when a device exploded on a train. Two months later, a nail bomb exploded in a crowded shopping centre, wounding 30 people in London.



The Andrew Lloyd Webber musical 'Whistle Down the Wind' at the Aldwych Theatre in London last July

## Lloyd Webber in £50m buyout of Polygram stake

THE COMPOSER Andrew Lloyd Webber has spent £50m to settle his long-running dispute with the record company that last year sabotaged a hit single written by him.

BY ANDREW VERITY  
AND PAUL MCCANN

Lord Lloyd-Webber, composer of *Evita* and *Phantom of the Opera*, is to buy the 30 per cent stake in his Really Useful theatre and music company which was owned by Polygram, for \$75m (£48m). The move gives him 100 per cent control of the copyright to his work for the first time.

Last December Lord Lloyd-Webber accused Polygram of manipulating the charts after it cut by one penny the price of the Boyzone single 'No Matter What', taken from his musical *Whistle Down the Wind*. The cut, to £1.78, after a long run at number one, put the single below the threshold for further inclusion in the charts, thus making way for another Boyzone single.

The deal values Lord Lloyd-Webber's group at more than £150m, and comes in the week that his great West End rival, Sir Cameron Mackintosh, increased his prestige by buying two London theatres.

Last year Polygram was taken over by the drinks giant Seagram and absorbed into Universal. Seagram's entertainment arm.

Lord Lloyd-Webber had long

wanted to buy the stake, but the old Polygram board had refused to sell.

Universal will retain the rights to publish and promote the composer's back-catalogue of music and records, but will relinquish any stake in the copyrights.

Lord Lloyd-Webber said: "This will make the Really Useful Group unique in the theatre business as both copyright-holder and producer of its own shows and music and the company will go forward as a truly independent home for writers, musicians and creative artists."

The organisation was founded in 1979 as a vehicle for staging Andrew Lloyd Webber musicals and holding the copyrights. It diversified into video and TV programming. In the 1980s, when his fame was at its height, the composer took the group public. However, the City never really took to the company, and he took the firm private again. After losses in 1997, the company returned to profit in 1998, helped by a three-million selling video of *Cats*. Pre-tax profits were £12.5m.

The next production is expected to be a video of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, the first Lloyd Webber musical, dating from 1968.

## Church to sell £31m 'unethical' shares

THE CHURCH of England confirmed yesterday that it is to sell £31m of shares in GEC to avoid attacks from critics who say church funds should not be invested in firms which have links to arms manufacturing.

Church Commissioners, who insist that the disinvestment is an ethical rather than a business decision, said they plan to sell the shares after British Aerospace takes over the company's defence division, Marconi Electric Systems, later this year.

The Church has 5.5 million shares in GEC, worth £31m at today's prices. Under the terms of the takeover, announced earlier this year, the church stands to get 0.43 BAE shares for every GEC share it holds. In effect, the church would end up holding 2.3 million shares in BAE, which manufactures the Tornado and Harrier aircraft, both currently being used in the Nato bombardment of Kosovo.

BY KATE WATSON-SMYTH

BAE also owns the Royal Ordnance business, which manufactures munitions and Heckler and Koch which builds mortars, assault rifles, machine guns, bombs and missiles. In addition to its equipment being used in the Balkans, the company has supplied Hawk aircraft to the government of Indonesia, which invaded East Timor 24 years ago.

The decision to disinvest was made by Anthony Hardy, the investment manager of the Church Commissioners, but a spokesman said it was not new policy. "We have never owned shares in British Aerospace, so this is no change," he said.

William Beaver, the director of communications for the Church of England, said: "We are not afraid of investing in companies that make equipment for Nato or Commonwealth countries, but we do not

generally support companies that make commercial decisions on a wider criteria."

The Church of England's investments are handled by the Church Commissioners and are worth a total of £3.6bn.

Mr Beaver said that investment decisions were made on two criteria: ethics and returns, and the sale of the GEC shares was ethical.

"It will be done over a course of time when the share prices are right," he said.

The news of the share sell-off is likely to anger BAE directors but it is not known whether the decision will affect share prices.

This will be the first time that the Church has disinvested from an arms manufacturer but it has been criticised in the past for its financial relations with such companies.

Two years ago, it emerged that Lockheed Martin, which produces stealth bombers, Tri-

dent submarines and armour-piercing explosive darts, had paid £15,000 to use a concert held at St Paul's Cathedral to provide corporate hospitality for defence contractors.

The deal to sponsor the concert, which was held as part of the cathedral's tercentenary celebrations, was struck by Lockheed Martin Tactical Systems, a Portsmouth-based subsidiary and the concert was used to entertain defence contractors, such as BAE, GEC and Racal. But a spokesman for the cathedral said it needed sponsorship and had been delighted to receive it.

Research carried out by the Campaign Against the Arms Trade, which was released in 1995, showed that around 90 churches and parishes, and a number of other Christian organisations, had held millions of pounds worth of shares in companies making arms or defence equipment.

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3 FIND THE ODD ONE OUT.

a. QDRO c. HWLEE  
b. OOTB d. EERT

4 WHICH OF THESE THREE DOES NOT BELONG?



5 WHAT COUNTRY STARTS THE WORDS IN THE FOLLOWING SENTENCE?

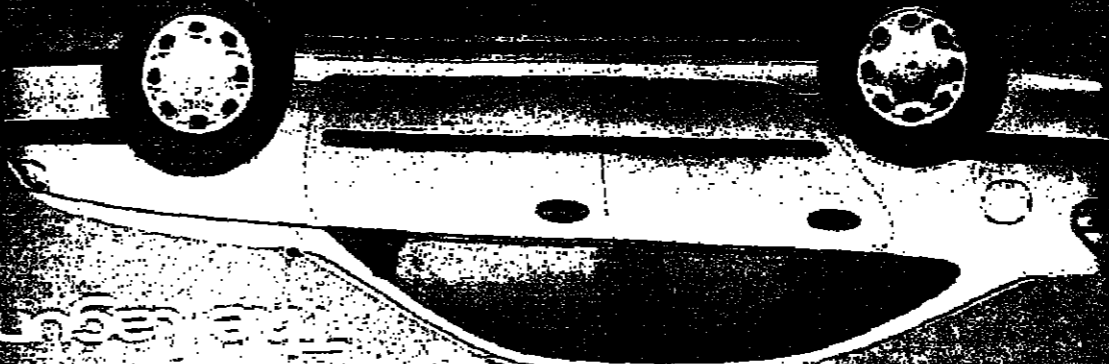
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6 FIND THE WORD THAT CAN BE PREFIXED BY EACH OF THE FOLLOWING.

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7 LOOK CAREFULLY AT THE FOLLOWING EQUATION. IS IT TRUE OR IS IT SO MIND NUMBINGLY AMAZING YOU CAN'T QUITE GET YOUR HEAD ROUND IT?

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## Toddler brain surgery success

BY KATE WATSON-SMYTH

A THREE-year-old child has been the first in Britain to have a successful brain surgery to remove a tumour.

The boy was admitted to hospital after two weeks of seizures and was found to have a large tumour in the brain.

The surgery was performed by a team of experts at a specialist hospital in London.

The boy is now recovering well and has no further seizures.

The surgery was a major success and has set a new benchmark for the treatment of brain tumours in children.

The boy's parents are delighted with the result and are grateful to the medical team.

The surgery was performed using a minimally invasive technique, which resulted in a smaller scar.

The boy is now back at school and is doing well.

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## VOTING FOR A NEW BRITAIN

Nothing less than a united kingdom  
at stake in Scottish and Welsh polls

WHEN THE Scottish people voted in the 1979 referendum by a margin of three to one to set up the first Scottish Parliament for almost 300 years, Tony Blair hoped that he had satisfied the Scots' thirst for self-government.

Within months, however, a nightmare scenario had begun to appear on Downing Street's radar screen. Far from killing off the Scottish National Party's demands for independence, had the Government merely played into its hands by allowing the separatist genie to come out of the bottle?

Mr Blair, never a passionate advocate of devolution, wondered whether he had made a catastrophic error that could lead to the break up of the United Kingdom.

The answer will become clearer on 6 May, when the first elections to the new Parliament in Edinburgh take place. Although Labour's nerves have steadied since last year's Scottish National Party (SNP) opinion poll advance, it is no exaggeration to say that the future of the UK is at stake. This is why the elections to the Scottish and Welsh assemblies matter to people in England, too.

Even if, as the opinion polls suggest, Labour emerges as the largest party in the Scottish Parliament, the SNP can expect to form a sizeable opposition with a powerful platform from which to pursue its aims.

Plenty of Labour MPs privately share the view of Alex Salmond, the SNP leader, that it is now only a matter of "when" rather than "if" Scotland votes for independence in the SNP's long-promised referendum.

Whatever the results next month, the elections in Scotland and Wales will have far-reaching consequences for British politics. Ministers believe the creation of the new assemblies will sooner or later fuel demands for elected assemblies in England.

A strong showing for the SNP and the prospect of a breakaway might well harm the career prospects of the six Scots in the Cabinet, and dash Gordon Brown's hopes of succeeding Mr Blair as Prime Minister.

Mr Salmond describes himself as "Gordon Brown's nemesis" and it is no wonder the Chancellor is calling the shots in Labour's campaign: he has installed key aides in Scotland and when he is stuck in London, he holds a telephone conference call every morning with the party's campaign headquarters.

The heated debate in Scotland over tax, with the SNP proposing to reject Mr Brown's 1p cut in the basic rate next year, will tell us whether the Scots are prepared to put their money where their mouths are to preserve public services.

The Scottish poll will also provide an insight into public opinion on the Kosovo crisis. So far, Mr Salmond's condemnation of Nato's strategy appears to have backfired, but events in the Balkans could yet change that.

The elections will be the first in Britain fought under proportional representation (PR). Whether the voters like the system could help determine whether it is introduced for the House of Commons. First, though, they will have to understand it. "It must be the cra-

BY ANDREW GRICE  
Political Editor

ziest system in the world," one Downing Street aide moaned last week.

People in Scotland and Wales will have two votes – one for a candidate in their Westminster parliamentary constituency, and one on a party list in their region. There is nothing to stop people casting their two votes for different parties, and surveys have suggested one in three may do so – which should boost the nationalists.

The Scottish Parliament will have 129 members, 73 representing individual constituencies, elected under the first-past-the-post system, and 56 from party lists in Scotland's eight regions under a proportional "topping up" process.

Opinion polls since the campaign began two weeks ago have shown a Labour advance and an SNP decline, raising Labour's hopes of winning an overall majority. But this looks unlikely, although Labour holds 56 of the 72 Scottish seats at Westminster, it has never won more than 50 per cent of the votes in a general election. So the most likely outcome is a Labour-Liberal Democrat coalition.

Wales will use the same method of voting: the Welsh Assembly in Cardiff will have 60 members, 40 elected in each of the principality's Westminster seats by first-past-the-post and 20 from the five regions in Wales under the "topping up" process.

The byzantine nature of the system is best illustrated in Wales, where it could deprive Alun Michael, the Secretary of State for Wales and Mr Blair's candidate to become First Secretary, of a seat, because he is standing for a "top-up" seat rather than a constituency.

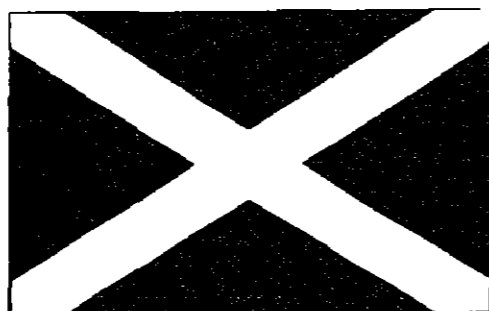
Perversely, if Labour does well in the constituencies in Mid and West Wales, Mr Michael may not win. Labour's polling experts put Mr Michael's chances at no better than 60-40. If he loses, Mr Blair will suffer the embarrassment of having to endorse Rhodri Morgan, the independent-minded MP for Cardiff West whom he moved heaven and earth to block, as the Assembly's Labour leader.

But Labour's prospects in Wales are better than in Scotland. The party should win an overall majority and would do so if it repeated its performance at the last two general elections (even though it failed to land a majority of the votes cast in 1992).

Allowing people to have two votes might help Plaid Cymru to push the Tories into third place in the Assembly. In contrast to their sister party in Scotland, the Welsh nationalists do not advocate independence from the UK.

The battle for Wales is also different because the Assembly in Cardiff will enjoy much less power than the law-making Scottish Parliament. It will be limited to detailed "secondary legislation" in line with that already passed by London. Although there is less demand for devolution in Wales than Scotland, the nationalists hope the "glorified talking shop" being opened this year will prove a stepping stone to a Scottish-style parliament with real clout.

## SCOTLAND: KEY ISSUES



Should the Scottish Parliament be a "bridge" to independence; whether to use new powers to vary income tax by up to 3p in the £; sense of nationhood; can coalition government work; knock-on effects for England; will minority parties, particularly hard left and the Greens, benefit from new PR-style voting system?; party leaderships, particularly SNP's Alex Salmond for "unpardonable folly" remarks about bombing Serbia.

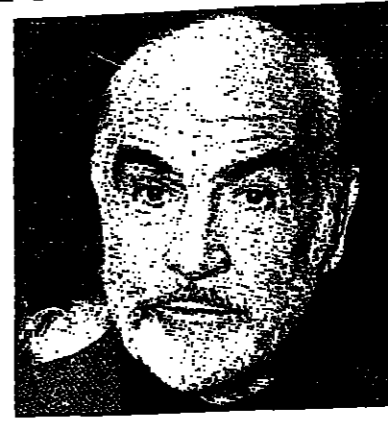
## THE BATTLEGROUND

Linlithgow, marginal seat held by maverick MP Tam Dalyell; Glasgow Govan, shipyard closure could hit Labour; Ross, Skye and Inverness West, Charles Kennedy must deliver to help his Liberal Democrat leadership bid; Falkirk West, renegade Labour MP Dennis Canavan standing as Independent; Edinburgh South, former SNP MP Margo MacDonald (above), torn in Alex Salmond's side, likely to win seat; Perth, Tory revival could harm SNP MP Roseanna Cunningham.



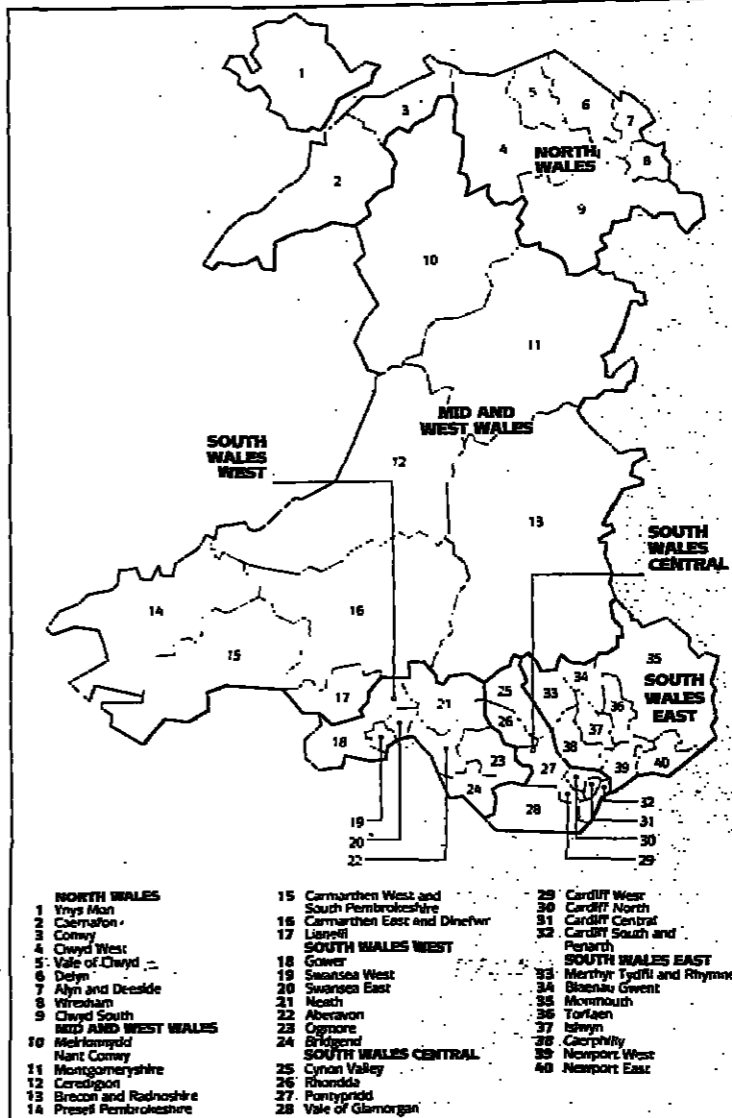
## THE CAMPAIGNERS

Donald Dewar, dour Secretary of State for Scotland; Alex Salmond, garrulous SNP leader; Tommy Sheridan, poll-tax convict, leader Scottish Socialist Party; Sean Connery, SNP supporter and actor (right); Donnie Munro, former member of Runrig folk/rock group; Lorraine Mann, standing for new Highlands and Islands Alliance; Eastenders' Ross Kemp, swapping Albert Square for Sauchiehall Street; Alex Ferguson, if Manchester United start losing.



## HOW THE VOTING SYSTEM WILL WORK

These are the first elections in Britain to be fought under a system of proportional representation, the aim being to ensure each party receives the number of seats which reflects the level of support among the voters. Each elector will have two votes. The first will be cast for a candidate to be elected on the first-past-the-post principle in existing constituencies for the Westminster Parliament. The second will be cast under the Additional Member System (AMS), so parties which polled well but did not win the constituency vote can still be represented. It is expected that parties will need at least 6-7 per cent of the vote to have any chance of winning seats under AMS. In Scotland, 73 MSPs will be elected from constituencies and 56 from party lists in eight regions. In Wales, 40 members of the Assembly will come from the constituencies and 20 from lists in five regions.



## WALES: KEY ISSUES



Labour splits over Alun Michael as New Labour choice as First Minister; the extent of Plaid Cymru's commitment to independent Wales, or "national status within Europe"; do Welsh feel more Welsh than British?; NHS and waiting list concerns; will the Assembly be only a glorified county council? right-wing Welsh Tory leader Rod Richards at odds with more left-leaning senior party figures; turnout amid voter apathy.

## THE BATTLEGROUND

Mid-Wales where Alun Michael (right), Blair's choice for First Minister, is trying to win from the "top-up" list; Caerphilly, where Rod Davies is staging a comeback; Cardiff Central, Labour seat and key target for Lib Dems; Monmouth, Labour/Tory marginal, only black candidate – Labour's Cherry Short – is standing; Clwyd West, where Tory leader Rod Richards, is trying to get back into frontline politics. Ynys Mon, Plaid Cymru's most vulnerable seat to Labour.



## THE CAMPAIGNERS

Alun Michael, Welshman parachuted in by New Labour; Englishman Rhodri Morgan, loose cannon not on Tony's Xmas card list; Ron Davies, post Clapham Common; Rod Richards, abrasive Tory leader and No Hague man; Dafydd Wigley, Plaid Cymru, president; Alison Halford, ex-Merseyside police chief standing in North-east Wales; Cerys Matthews (above), Welsh-speaking leader of Catania, may hit the hustings; weatherwoman Sian Lloyd, who might stand next time, but not sure who for.

Smaller parties could be Nationalists' advance  
Holyrood king makers stirs fear for Labour list

THE NATIONALISTS describe it as "Scotland's first general election", and with two and a half weeks to go that is exactly how it is being fought – black propaganda, abuse, leadership crises, stunts, resignations and wild statistics. And this was supposed to be the dawn of New Politics.

The Independent's soundings, from the drawing rooms of Morningside to the tenements of Govan via the farthest hills and glens, suggest the electorate has already taken a view. They may not be too clued-up on the actual powers of the Scottish Parliament, and certainly not on the workings of the new voting system, but most know the future direction of their country is at stake.

"They believe it's independence they're voting on and they're very clear whether they want it or not," said Gailie McCann, a Labour councillor in

## VIEW FROM SCOTLAND

Easterhouse, a poor eastern suburb of Glasgow. "Many old people are extremely frightened about it."

Scots will be voting for a 129-member parliament to take control of the existing functions of the Scottish Office – education, health, transport, local government and law and order. The Parliament also offers a bridge to independence, if the Scots choose to take it by voting SNP in sufficient numbers.

The use of a proportional representation voting system is likely to result in no party having overall control of the parliament. Opinion polls suggest Labour will win about 60 seats and the SNP around 40. The Liberal Democrats could get 15, the Tories perhaps a dozen. Tommy Sheridan, the Glasgow councillor and former poll-tax convict,

is predicting up to 10 seats for his Scottish Socialist Party (SSP). Wildly optimistic perhaps, but a fringe party with only a handful of seats could conceivably hold the balance of power.

If Labour emerges as the largest party, Donald Dewar, as First Minister, will look to the Liberal Democrats for a coalition partner. But if the SNP does well it could be Mr Salmond who makes the marriage overtures. Before the campaign it was not an unlikely prospect. Not far adrift of Labour in the polls, all the SNP seemed to need was a burst of patriotic fervour in the final days, fanned by the party's king over the water, Sean Connery. The SNP is normally a media-savvy operation, but the wheels have fallen off the party campaign.

Mr Salmond gambled by proposing Scots stump up a penny in the pound more on tax than the English to bolster public services, and attacked the Nato bombing of Yugoslavia as "unpardonable folly".

SNP policy is to hold a referendum on independence if it wins sufficient power at Holyrood. But the promise was played down in its manifesto and there were hints Mr Salmond might let it slip altogether.

While the SNP leader has lost his cheeky-chuckle bounce and strain shows on the faces of his team, the Labour machine looks formidable. Scottish Labour has been beefed up by the Chancellor Gordon Brown, his adviser Ed Milliband, who temporarily resigned from the Treasury to help at the party's Glasgow headquarters, and Douglas Alexander MP, a former Brown speech writer.

STEPHEN GOODWIN

LABOUR LEADERS, seriously concerned about the growth of nationalist support in Wales, are today expected to round on Plaid Cymru's "hidden agenda" of separatism.

Labour will accuse the nationalists of changing the text on their web site in an attempt to airbrush any suggestion that they favour the break-up of the United Kingdom. Peter Hain, a senior Labour Party figure in Wales, will allege that Plaid Cymru routinely called for independence in past years and will argue that the party is trying to reinvent its history.

Dafydd Wigley, President of Plaid, has consistently argued that independence was never one of his party's policies.

The most recent polls show significant gains by the nationalists since the general election. Whereas in 1997 Plaid gained just 10 per cent of the vote, pollsters believe they will

gain nearly 20 per cent of the 40 seats in the Welsh Assembly elected on the principle of first past the post.

Even more worrying for Labour was the finding that the nationalists could gain 29 per cent of the 20 seats elected through proportional representation.

Clearly the most powerful party in the principality, Labour is worried that while the party will take a clear majority of first-past-the-post votes, there may be a "protest" vote by loyal supporters who may cast their second vote for another party from the "top-up" list of candidates.

Heading Labour's list is Alun Michael, Secretary of State for Wales, parachuted in by Tony Blair because of his New Labour credentials. Mr

Michael stands accused by his critics of seeking to ensure that the Assembly simply toes the Westminster line. Rhodri Morgan, whom he defeated for the leadership of the Welsh party, and Ron Davies, who resigned from his post as Welsh Secretary after his walkabout on Clapham Common, both want the parliament to make its mark.

One of the paradoxes of the new electoral system is that a massive vote for a party's candidate in the first-past-the-post element of the poll will make the success of the party's "list" candidate less likely.

Supporters of Mr Morgan have been out in force in key constituencies in the Mid and West Wales area attempting to maximise the votes for Labour constituency candidates. The

complexities of the voting system mean that some Plaid Cymru supporters in the key Carmarthen East constituency are hoping for a big Labour victory so that Mr Michael is defeated.

All candidates face widespread apathy among voters. If Labour is suffering from the relative unpopularity of its leader in Wales and Plaid Cymru is battling against its separatist image, the Conservatives are not without their problems.

The Tories are split from top to bottom in the principality. Rod Richards, the party's leader in Wales, represents the right-wing Eurosceptical tendency, while the politician he defeated for the top job, Nick Bourne, is a more orthodox Conservative who enjoys the support of the party leader, William Hague.

BARRIE CLEMENT  
AND TONY HEATH



# Ulster talks may be put off until autumn

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THE BRITISH and Irish Governments are considering "parking" the Northern Ireland peace talks until the autumn, unless a breakthrough results from a renewed push, which begins today with party leaders going to Downing Street.

Tony Blair and Bertie Ahern, the Irish Prime Minister, will hold joint talks at Number 10 with the key players, but they are not optimistic of finding a breakthrough over IRA arms decommissioning.

Sinn Féin president Gerry Adams warned yesterday that the Good Friday Agreement was finished if demands for decommissioning continued. "If the demands persist then the agreement is dead," he said.

However, David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader and First Minister of the Northern Ireland assembly, who has insisted on decommissioning before allowing Mr Adams to sit on a new assembly executive, opposed delaying the process until the autumn. "I think to mark time for months would be a very bad thing," he said.

With the Northern Ireland marching season approaching, and the European elections in June, the two prime ministers have privately agreed that time is running out, and if no breakthrough has been found by mid-April they may have to postpone the progress.

BY COLIN BROWN  
Chief Political Correspondent



Bertie Ahern is to meet Tony Blair for talks

"Parking the talks is nobody's favourite option but it might prove necessary," said a source in Dublin.

Over the weekend, there was little sign of compromise from either Sinn Féin or the Unionists. Mr Trimble appealed to loyalist paramilitaries to break the log-jam over the decommissioning of terrorist weapons. He said on the BBC's *Breakfast With Frost* that if they made a gesture it would make the position of the hardliners in the republican movement "untenable". He said: "It think it is premature, far, far too

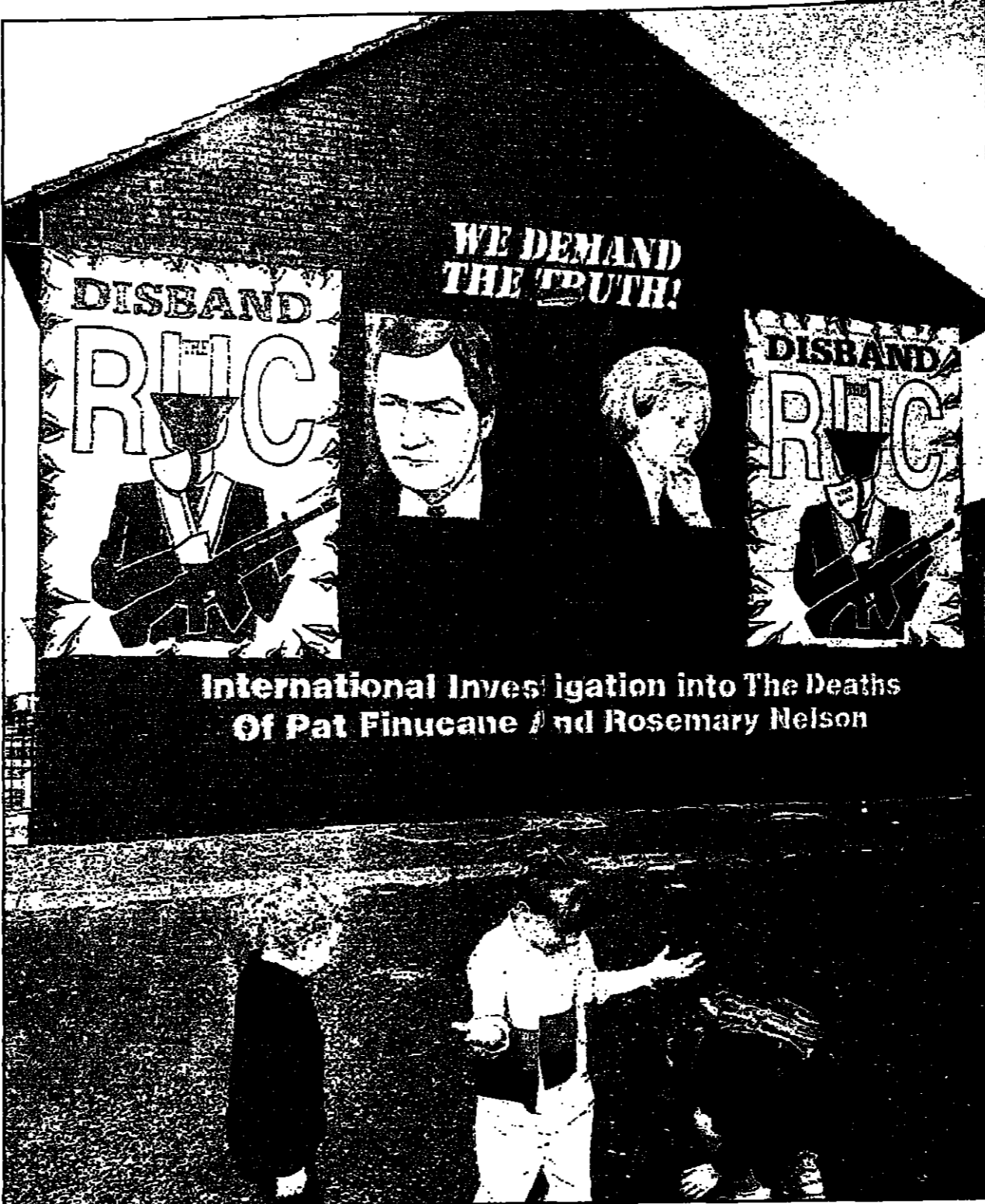
premature to be talking about the end of the road. This process is a lot more robust than people realise."

He also confirmed he planned to go to Rome for a meeting of lawyers who are also Nobel peace prize winners. While there, he might also meet the Pope. Mr Trimble said: "I would not be the first Orangeman to meet a Pope."

Dublin's authority to change the country's constitutional claim to the North, which was secured in a referendum last year, runs out in May but it could be extended, probably by a vote in the Irish Parliament.

Downing Street said last night that the two prime ministers would be in "listening mode" today, for their meeting with Mr Adams, Mr Trimble and John Hume, the SDLP leader. The crisis meeting was called after Mr Ahern and Mr Blair agreed last week that the draft Hillsborough declaration had failed to win sufficient support from either side.

Sean Neeson, the leader of Ulster's cross-community Alliance Party, addressing his party's annual conference, called on all sides to move away from "their own narrow selfish concerns" for the sake of the peace agreement. "It is up to the UUP and Sinn Féin to remove the vetoes that they are imposing on the process," he said.



A mural in Belfast, commemorating the murdered solicitors Pat Finucane and Rosemary Nelson

## Fresh look at lawyer's murder

A FRESH inquiry into allegations of collusion by British military intelligence in the killing of a solicitor in Northern Ireland has been ordered by the Government.

But it falls well short of the demands by the Irish government and civil rights campaigners for a public or judicial inquiry into the murder of Pat Finucane, a Belfast lawyer. Sir Ronnie Flanagan, the RUC chief constable, has asked an assistant Metropolitan Police commissioner, John Stevens, to head the investigation. Ten years ago, another inquiry by Mr Stevens found no evidence of "widespread or institutionalised collusion between the Royal Ulster Constabulary and loyalist paramilitaries."

Sir Ronnie said if fresh evidence was found, there would be an independent inquiry. The Government has been facing rising pressure for the inquiry to be reopened following last month's murder of the civil rights lawyer Rosemary Nelson. Relatives of Ms Nelson are today launching a campaign to demand an independent and international inquiry into allegations of collusion in her death.

Mr Finucane was shot in 1989 by a loyalist gang which included an Army intelligence agent, Brian Nelson. The British-Irish Rights Watch claimed Mr Finucane's killers were the pawns of British military intelligence.

A United Nations report last year also urged a judicial inquiry.

COLIN BROWN

## Labour will reject proposals to elect peers' replacements

THE GOVERNMENT is heading for a big clash with the Tories over the future of the House of Lords. The Independent has learnt that ministers are poised to reject the idea of a directly elected House of Lords as a survey of Labour supporters reveals strong opposition to it.

Professor Keith Ewing, who is carrying out a party consultation exercise before Labour submits its own recommendations to the Government's Royal Commission on the Lords, has privately told party workers he has found low levels of support for a directly elected Lords. Government sources confirmed this. Last week the Conservatives came

BY COLIN BROWN

out in support of a directly elected upper house, with the option of creating a "senate". Baroness Jay of Paddington, the Leader of the Lords, is expected to signal Labour opposition to a direct elections in a speech to the parliamentary press gallery on Wednesday.

The chasm which has opened between the Government and the Tories could lead to the long-term future of the Lords becoming a battleground at the next election and is likely to threaten progress on the Bill to remove the right of hereditary peers to sit in the Lords. The Lords Reform Bill be-

gins the committee stage this week in the Lords with a vote on the compromise amendment to allow 91 hereditaries to stay for the time being.

Tony Blair will be open to the accusation of creating "Tony's cronies" by replacing hereditaries by nominated life peers. Labour's Plant commission suggested peers could be elected indirectly from regional constituencies leaving the final choice to the prime minister according to the proportion of votes won in the elections.

Some ministers believe that goes too far, and are campaigning for Labour peers to be nominated to the Lords from within regional assemblies.



Blair: Will be seen to have ennobled 'Tony's cronies'

## At last, a plausible excuse for lying in bed each morning

THE ALARM sounds and you lie helpless in bed, unable to move or speak for several minutes. Some might call you an idle sluggard but now you have the perfect excuse - you have "sleep paralysis".

One in 50 people experience sleep paralysis at least once a month, according to research published in the latest issue of the magazine *Neurology*.

The condition is characterised by the inability to move or speak for several minutes after waking up and can be caused by disrupted sleep patterns, stress or prescription drugs.

"When you dream, your body becomes actively paralysed so

BY CHERRY NORTON  
AND CIAR BYRNE

that you don't carry out the movements in your dreams. Sleep paralysis occurs when this continues into waking consciousness," said Dr Chris Idzikowski, the chairman of the Royal Society of Medicine's forum on sleep and its disorders.

The study, of 8,100 people, showed that people who experienced sleep paralysis often felt sleepy during the day and had difficulty falling asleep at night. One in eight people experienced their first episode during childhood.

"People experiencing sleep

paralysis on a regular basis should seek medical attention," said Dr Maurice Ohayon, of New York University, who conducted the study.

"In most cases, sleep paralysis can be treated. Contrary to previous findings that sleep paralysis began in adolescence, our research showed it can start at any age."

Around 6 per cent of those who took part in the study had experienced sleep paralysis at least once in their lifetime.

"It used to be called 'night nurses' paralysis' because of the association with shift work," said Dr Susan Blackmore, a senior lecturer in psychology at the University of the

West of England, who is heading the first major academic research into sleep paralysis in Britain.

"We have got to be paralysed while dreaming, but there are mechanisms to make sure we don't realise this," she said.

According to Dr Blackmore, it is a natural human condition which does not require treatment and should be treated by learning relaxing techniques.

Preliminary findings from a survey of 420 people being conducted by Dr Blackmore's team showed that 6.8 per cent suffered from the condition at least once a month, and 43 per cent had experienced it at some time.

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THE INDEPENDENT  
Monday 19 April 1999

THE BEST WRITING  
PHILIP HENSHAW

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get their  
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journal

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## IN THE INDEPENDENT TOMORROW John Simpson: one of the world's most unlikely Serb apologists

MEDIA IN THE INDEPENDENT EVERY TUESDAY

THE BEST WRITING, WEEK IN, WEEK OUT: DEBORAH ROSS, HOWARD JACOBSON, HAMISH MURRAY, IAN JACK, ROBERT FISK, TERENCE BLACKER, SUSANNAH FRANKEL, BRIAN VINTER, PHILIP HENSHER, JOHN WALSH, RICHARD WILLIAMS, DAVID AARONOVITCH, DEBORAH ORR, THOMAS SUTCLIFFE, MILES KINGTON, SUE ARNOLD, ANDREAS WHITTAM SMITH

**LAW**  
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THE ARMY IN  
MACEDONIA  
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# Train services axed as subsidies fall

HARD-UP train companies are slashing vital train services as they try to cope with dwindling Government subsidies.

Rural, suburban and long-distance services are being axed quietly, weeks after the Government pledged to boost rail travel.

Ministers admit they cannot prevent the cuts, despite promising to crack down on failures of the privatised industry.

Wales & West is slashing off-peak services from Liskeard to Looe in Cornwall and Exeter to Barnstaple in Devon. The changes in the train company's summer timetable published

BY PHILIP THORNTON  
Transport Correspondent

later this month will cut seven trains and reduce the services to the lowest level without incurring a fine from regulators.

First North Western is axing two experimental services to London - from Blackpool and Manchester airport. The Manchester service carried only 253 people a week against a capacity of 5,040. It is also cutting nine off-peak evening services on the line from Manchester to Huddersfield, Derbyshire.

Chiltern Railways, which has admitted running more

trains than the infrastructure could cope with, is cutting 3 per cent of its peak time trains.

Wales & West said the lines were among the most under-used and heavily subsidised in its region. The moves will allow it to run extra services on its busy routes out of Plymouth, it said.

The cuts are the first sign that the sharp fall in government subsidy, which reduces from £1.5bn to £600m by 2003, is biting.

In the autumn, Wales & West will cut the Swanline between Cardiff and Swansea close to the minimum. The 12 services

being axed cost £1.03m to run but raise only £250,000 in fares.

Chris Gibb, operations director, said: "As a railwayman I take no pleasure in reducing services, but the reduction in our grant this year by 19m requires us to look at all the services we provide above the contracted levels laid down in our franchise."

Glenda Jackson, the Transport minister, said train companies had to run a minimum number of services - the Passenger Service Requirement (PSR) - on commercially unviable lines.

But she added: "Where train

operators have introduced additional services for commercial reasons, they are free to adapt these services in response to passenger demand. This could include complete withdrawal of services or replacing rail services with bus services."

The Government is expected to impose tough obligations on operators - in exchange for greater subsidy or longer franchises - when their contracts come up for renewal to prevent of a repeat.

The campaign group Save Our Railways said operators were cutting to PSR levels, re-

ducing costs to cope with falling subsidies. "Many rural routes will be running a grudging minimal service which will not be attractive to potential users," said a spokesman. "A spiral of decline could follow with low usage and high running costs."

The Wales & West cuts have provoked protest. Local councillors have called on John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister with responsibilities for railways, to intervene.

Godfrey Smale, the head of the Labour group on Cornwall County Council, said: "This action does not fit in with the government policy on encouraging

people to use other forms of transport than the car."

Councillor Sid Gardener said other branch lines were threatened. "They have said the line is not economically viable, but none of our lines are economically viable. It comes down to the profit and loss."

Mr Gardener, a career railwayman, said replacement buses would add to congestion on the narrow roads to Looe, particularly during this summer's solar eclipse.

The Department for the Environment, Transport and the Regions said the summer timetable would include "more

trains, additional services and increased frequencies".

Midland Main Line will double the number of daily services it runs from 66 to 130. Great Eastern is doubling frequency between London and Ipswich, and Anglia is doing the same between London and Norwich.

South West Trains will run four trains an hour in the off-peak to Southampton and Portsmouth. Eleven other train operators plan smaller-scale improvements.

The Government has set a target of boosting rail travel by 15 per cent over the next four years.

## Big boys get their very own journal

BY PAUL MCCANN  
Media Editor

A NEW MAGAZINE aimed at the generation of men which believes clubbing can go hand-in-hand with gardening and that home decorating is an extension of high fashion is launched next week.

Later appears to be based on the premise that refusing to grow up is now a cultural trend and not just immaturity, following in the footsteps of Red, the first young women's magazine to mention children without appearing terminally unhip.

Red spotted that women were having children much later and keeping hold of both their careers and their dancing shoes when they did.

Now, using the unarguable logic that men have been refusing to grow old gracefully for years, comes a magazine which peppers its pages with thirtysomething icons like Leonard Rossiter, James Hunt and Bruce Lee.

"Later is for those of us who are no longer teenagers," says Phil Hilton, 35, the former editor of Men's Health who is editing the new magazine. "It's for the man who feels he is outgrowing the existing glossies."

If any articles in the first issue of Later sum up the different interests of the "middle-aged" man from the standard magazine "lad", they are a profile of the journalist-turned millionaire author Robert Harris and a piece on men who have given up their safe jobs to start their own businesses.

Eighteen months since its launch, Red is selling 175,000 copies a month but because the men's market is a less competitive one, IPC, the publisher of Later, is printing 400,000 copies of the first issue and backing it up with a £2.5m advertising campaign.

At least part of the appeal to publishers is that men in their middle youth have money to spend and are in the market for a range of consumer goods, not just beer and trainers.



Visitors to the Royal Academy for the 'Monet at Midnight' exhibition - 'The fact that it's the middle of the night adds a little artiness to the art'

Neville Elder

## Hordes can't get in for love or Monet

BY CLARE GARNER

"IT'S A wicked exhibition to see off your face, because it's so beautiful and so dreamy." The couple who had dropped an ecstasy tab before "rocking up" at the Royal Academy at 2am yesterday clung to each other as they sat on a viewing bench.

They hadn't actually seen many paintings yet, but the night was young. "We're totally spun out by all the people here," said the 25-year-old woman who, by day, is a drugs and alcohol counsellor. "I want to walk around, but he's suffering loss of vision. Luckily we've got hours, so we'll sit here for a while and then go and walk around."

Another tripping couple was scrutinising one of the paintings' captions. It read: "Lent to the Gobelins Tapestry Studio, Paris" - on the face of it a pretty uninteresting fact. "Where does the tapestry come into it then?" asked the girl. "Gobelins. Gobelins. Gobelins." Despite notable exceptions, the pill-popping contingent at the Monet after Midnight exhibition was in the minority. Most of the 3,000 visitors to Britain's first all-night art exhibition appeared to be taking the task extremely seriously. Or perhaps they were just concentrating on staying awake.

"It's warm as well which adds to the tiredness factor," said a bleary-eyed Andrew Tennant, 24. "I just keep thinking: 'Where's the exit? Where's the exit?' I'm thinking of buying one of those books in the entrance."

One woman, Ingrid Op Den Camp, 31, had flown into London from the Netherlands for 24 hours, especially to see exhibition. "The purple waterlilies. That's what's brought me," she said, explaining that she couldn't get a ticket for any other time slot. "I didn't book a hotel. I'm staying here all night."

Outside the Royal Academy,

on Piccadilly, a fluorescent-jacketed steward was urging the crowd to go home to bed: "There is absolutely no point in standing here. There are no more tickets. It's sold out all night," he said.

But these people seemed happy to stand there till dawn if necessary, kissing, cuddling and sharing chocolate cake. It was, after all, their last chance to pay their £9 and see the 80 assembled Monets. Last night the paintings were packed up, ready to be returned to their various private and public homes around the world.

By 4am yesterday 150 people were still waiting to get in. A

pair of students had been there several hours. "We're just very last-minute," said one, as if what he was doing was the most natural thing in the world. Josh Whaley, a 29-year-old artist from Islington, was less amused. "It's open 24 hours a day and we still can't get in," he said, heading for home.

Back inside, the lucky ones were still squinting at the canvases. The occasional snippet of art critique reverberated around a room - "Abstraction worked but only when it was in a dynamic configuration... It needs that special differentiation and orientation." But the general consensus was that

viewing art in the middle of the night was less than ideal.

"I feel I could appreciate the paintings more in the day when I'm bright and awake, but appreciating them a bit is better than nothing at all," said Teri McQueen, 20, a student from California.

But for Ray Peck, 36, a salesman from Indianapolis, the experience was special. "We've found this little cache of time while everyone else is sleeping. By the time they wake up we will have done an entirely different event that they would never have considered... Just the fact that it's the middle of the night adds a little artiness to the art."

## Prayers said for Cardinal Hume

BY CLARE GARNER

CONGREGATIONS FROM all denominations joined in prayer yesterday for Cardinal Basil Hume, the leader of the Roman Catholic Church in England and Wales, who has revealed he is seriously ill with cancer.

The 76-year-old cardinal was due to attend Mass at St Teresa's of the Child Jesus, in Headstone, Middlesex, but stayed at home resting instead. However, he wishes to carry on working for as long as possible, and intends to hold a scheduled memorial Mass at 5.30pm today at Westminster Cathedral in London for Bishop Patrick Casey, who died in January.

Hundreds of people yesterday went to Westminster Cathedral, where Cardinal Hume has been archbishop for the past 23 years. They prayed during Mass that "the Lord would strengthen and sustain him".

Maite Cort, 25, of south London, who regularly attends the cathedral, said after the service that people had not suspected Cardinal Hume was ill. "It was a real shock to hear that he has cancer, especially because he looked so well during Holy Week," she said.

Cardinal Hume broke the news of his advanced illness in letters to the priests in his archdiocese. He had, however, received "two wonderful graces", he wrote. "First, I have been given time to prepare for a new future. Secondly, I find myself - uncharacteristically - calm and at peace."

A member of his Westminster congregation said yesterday: "The cardinal is such a great man and is an example to us all. I think this is a pointer to everyone about how to face up to this terrible disease. Our thoughts are with him."

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, said on hearing the news: "I am so sorry to learn of Cardinal Hume's illness. His ability to look forward with hope is typical of the man we know love and respect."

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# The economic consequences of Kosovo



GAVYN DAVIES

*The truth, for good or ill, is that wars are not particularly expensive compared with the costs of other evils*

WITH THE EXCEPTION of a slight weakening in the euro against the dollar, the Kosovo conflict has so far been almost entirely ignored by the financial markets. This stands in sharp contrast to the initial phase of the Gulf War in 1990, when global equity prices fell by almost one-fifth in the wake of the Iraqi invasion. Business and consumer confidence also collapsed in the United States in the space of three months, exacerbating the onset of what proved to be a severe American recession. So are the markets being too complacent about the economic consequences of Slobodan Milosevic?

The one thing that can safely be said about warfare is that it is unpredictable. Indeed, even more than in the case of economics, supposed "experts" in military matters are often the people most surprised by the twists and turns of military conflagration. In the early 1960s, when the US took its first tentative steps into Vietnam, no one would have imagined that the economic consequences would eventually escalate into a vast expansion of US budgetary and monetary policy, triggering a severe outbreak of global inflation and the collapse of the Bretton Woods exchange rate system.

In the early 1990s, few would have foreseen that the startling success of the blitzkrieg against Saddam Hussein would lay the

Milosevic to sue for an "acceptable" peace. The financial cost of such a war would be very limited - at present, the US is estimated to be spending \$30m per day on the aerial bombardment, and it is expected that President Clinton will soon submit to Congress a \$1bn-\$8bn supplementary budget request, designed to fund the Kosovo operation through to the end of this fiscal year (30 September). Obviously, this level of costs is minor against the background of a likely US budget surplus of more than \$100bn this year, so it is hardly surprising that the financial markets have largely ignored the Kosovo conflict so far.

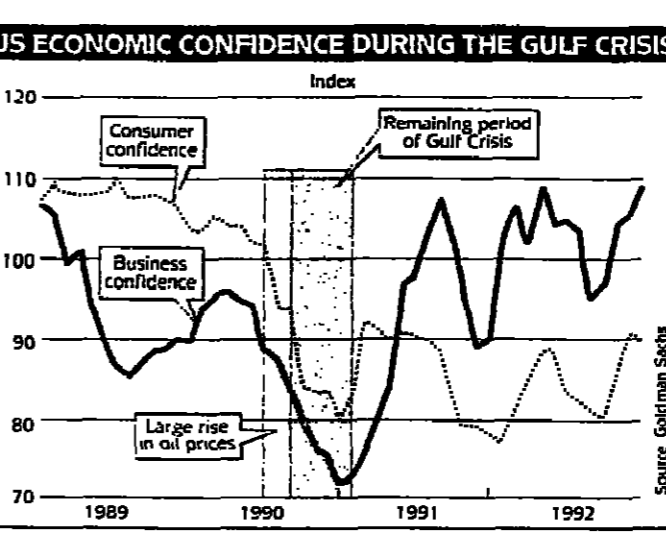
In the case of the UK, no official estimates of costs have been given, but defence specialists have suggested that it might be running at some \$1m a day, which would not be enough to put much of a dent in the Treasury's £120bn contingency reserve for this year. Thus, provided that some form of settlement can be reached in the next few months, without significant escalation to a ground conflict, the financial markets are probably right largely to ignore the Kosovo threat.

This could change if the West became embroiled in a prolonged ground war. Although President Clinton has repeatedly ruled out the possibility of troop deployment on the ground, this seems to have become somewhat more likely in recent days, given the increasingly

hawkish trend of political opinion in the United States and the UK. Furthermore, there is a possibility that Mr Milosevic may himself choose to escalate the war by attacking neighbouring states.

However, there are two reasons for expressing severe doubts about whether the major Western powers will allow themselves to be dragged into a general ground war. First, there is no vital economic interest at stake in the Balkans, even for the Western European economies, still less for the United States. Obviously, there are first-order moral and humanitarian issues at stake, but there is nothing on the economic front as compelling as the security of oil supplies, which justified the massive Gulf operation to the American voter. Second, repeated experience during this century suggests that the costs and potential risks of a conflagration in the Balkans might be extremely large, with significant risks of a high casualty rate, an escalating conflict, and scant prospects of an outright victory.

All in all, in a worst case, this could end up looking more like Vietnam than the Persian Gulf in terms of the cost/benefit ratio facing the Western powers. Given these risks and uncertainties, and the lack of a vital economic interest at stake, it still seems that the US and its allies will be very circumspect before allowing themselves to become



Why, then, did bond and equity markets decline so much during the initial phase of the Gulf War? The most important point to make here is that the Gulf War involved a serious threat to global oil supplies, and therefore triggered (in its early stages) a vast increase in the oil price. Specifically, from June 1990 to September 1990, the oil price approximately doubled from \$19 a barrel to \$36 a barrel. Subsequently, as it became clear that oil supplies were unlikely to be seriously disrupted, the price started to subside again, declining to \$20 a barrel by the time the war was won in February 1991. A Balkan conflict, by contrast, would be most unlikely to trigger any significant increase in oil or commodity prices, and should therefore have less effect on financial markets.

This leaves the possibility of a detrimental impact on business and consumer confidence, leading to recession. This time, Western Europe seems far more vulnerable to such a shock to confidence than the United States, not least because of its geographical proximity to the conflict zone. If a ground war erupts and shows signs of going badly for the Western powers, this could have a highly detrimental effect on consumer confidence, especially in Germany. But hopefully even this would blow over fairly quickly unless the war went really badly wrong.

## Paribas to use Axa pact in bid battle

THE FIGHT by French banks Société Générale and Paribas to fend off a hostile bid from rival BNP looks set to descend into further legal wrangling today, when Paribas unveils details of a shareholder pact that it claims stops its largest shareholder, Axa, backing the BNP bid.

Paribas is still smarting over the fact that Claude Bebear, the Axa chairman, originally backed Paribas' bid to merge with SocGen when it was unveiled in early February, only to switch sides when BNP came forward with a better offer some weeks later.

According to Paribas, the pact, which goes back to 1989, prevents Axa selling its stake in

the bank to another party without its express agreement, which, in the case of BNP, it is clearly unwilling to give.

The agreement will form the main plank of Paribas' official response to the hostile BNP bid. Axa has yet to respond formally. But the French insurance giant will almost certainly contest Paribas' interpretation of the document.

BNP has claimed that its bid to create a mega-bank with more than \$1 trillion of assets will yield more savings than the SG Paribas deal.

The latest salvo comes amid



Daniel Bouton (left) and Andre Levy-Lang face criticism

City sources claimed at the weekend that a senior banker from Morgan Stanley, one of a clutch of highly paid investment banks brought in to shore up the SG Paribas defence, went to BNP with the idea of a merger with SocGen just weeks before it was signed up to join the defence team.

The sources say that Morgan Stanley has sought to play down the affair, claiming that it was a junior analyst who came up with the idea. Nevertheless, it is gird to the mill of those inside and outside the bank who claim that neither shareholders nor employees are well served by the insistence on fighting the BNP bid to the death.

## Governments back Deutsche merger with Telecom Italia

PROSPECTS OF a 100bn euro white knight bid by Deutsche Telekom for Italy's Telecom Italia were boosted yesterday after the idea received enthusiastic backing from the governments of Italy and Germany.

Italy signalled it could accept a deal provided it was structured as "a merger of equals".

Deutsche, which is also believed to be interested in bidding for UK mobile phone network One2One, is discussing a merger deal which would scupper a rival hostile bid from Olivetti and create a \$200bn European telecoms giant.

Italy's finance minister, Vincenzo Visco, and his German opposite number, Hans Eichel, met in Dresden yesterday, where they both attended an informal meeting of European Union finance ministers to discuss the proposed deal.

Among the topics that were discussed was the sale of the German government's 74 per cent stake in Deutsche Telekom.

The Italian government, which has a golden share in Telecom Italia giving it an ef-

fective veto on any bid, is believed to have been concerned at the prospect of the Italian national telecommunications falling into the hands of a company which is still majority controlled by the German government.

However, after the meeting Mr Visco said that there were ways around that obstacle. "The question is that ownership does not interfere in management. This can be done in several ways."

Mr Eichel said for his part: "We have an underlying liking for the idea that the two companies could get together."

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66	1085.0	20	20	20	130	210.0	-32.5 0.8
67	1085.0	20	20	20	130	210.0	-32.5 0.8
68	1085.0	20	20	20	130	210.0	-32.5 0.8
69	1085.0	20	20	20	130	210.0	-32.5 0.8
70	1085.0	20	20	20	130	210.0	-32.5 0.8
71	1085.0	20	20	20	130	210.0	-32.5 0.8
72	1085.0	20	20	20	130	210.0	-32.5 0.8
73	1085.0	20	20	20	130	210.0	-32.5 0.8
74	1085.0	20	20	20	130	210.0	-32.5 0.8
75	1085.0	20	20	20	130	210.0	-32.5 0.8
76	1085.0	20	20	20	130	210.0	-32.5 0.8
77	1085.0	20	20	20	130	210.0	-32.5 0.8
78	1085.0	20	20	20	130	210.0	-32.5 0.8
79	1085.0	20	20	20	130	210.0	-32.5 0.8
80	1085.0	20	20	20	130	210.0	-32.5 0.8
81	1085.0	20	20	20	130	210.0	-32.5 0.8
82	1085.0	20	20	20	130	210.0	-32.5 0.8
83	1085.0	20	20	20	130	210.0	-32.5 0.8
84	1085.0	20	20	20	130	210.0	-32.5 0.8
85	1085.0	20	20	20	130	210.0	-32.5 0.8
86	1085.0	20	20	20	130	210.0	-32.5 0.8
87	1085.0	20	20	20	130	210.0	-32.5 0.8
88	1085.0	20	20	20	130	210.0	-32.5 0.8
89	1085.0	20	20	20	130	210.0	-32.5 0.8
90	1085.0	20	20	20	130	210.0	-32.5 0.8
91	1085.0	20	20	20	130	210.0	-32.5 0.8
92	1085.0	20	20	20	130	210.0	-32.5 0.8
93	1085.0	20	20	20	130	210.0	-32.5 0.8
94	1085.0	20	20	20	130	210.0	-32.5 0.8
95	1085.0	20	20	20	130	210.0	-32.5 0.8
96	1085.0	20	20	20	130	210.0	-32.5 0.8
97	1085.0	20	20	20	130	210.0	-32.5 0.8
98	1085.0	20	20	20	130	210.0	-32.5 0.8
99	1085.0	20	20	20	130	210.0	-32.5 0.8
100	1085.0	20	20	20	130	210.0	-32.5 0.8

[illegible]

45	Albers	182.3	10.3	2.3	16.7	94	Cylinders	100.0	0.0	2.4	17.9	
46	Ames	108.8	10.8	2.3	16.7	95	De Op	350.0	0.0	2.4	17.9	
47	Burdette	61.5	1.5	1.2	12.8	96	Denningsburg	150.0	x	0.0	5.6	7.9
48	Conner	270.0	2.0	2.0	18.0	1,000	Edwardsburg	1,000.0	0.0	0.0	20.8	
49	Fyfe	145.0	2.5	0.0	13.9	1,250	Fort Porter	1,250.0	0.0	0.0	21.2	
50	Genovese	235.0	-15.0	1.6	21.7	131	Patino J	64.5	x	0.0	5.6	4.8
51	Island	245.5	-2.0	0.7	12.5	250	Porto Porto	250.0	0.0	0.0	11.0	
52	La Roche Op	491.5	-2.0	1.6	12.7	300	St-Alouis	300.0	0.0	0.0	14.9	
53	Marathon W	391.5	-12.5	0.3	21.9	321	Goode Drive	425.0	-10.0	0.3	13.5	14.4
54	Marathon W	360.0	13.0	0.0	18.8	450	Mar Hwy	450.0	-2.0	0.8	8.5	
55	McIntyre	100.0	0.0	0.0	14.8	56	Justice	54.5	x	0.1	5.4	
56	McIntyre	100.0	0.0	0.0	14.8	150	Warren Docks	145.0	x	0.0	14.2	
57	McIntyre	100.0	0.0	0.0	14.8	63	McIntyre	271.5	-0.0	0.0	16.6	
58	McIntyre	100.0	0.0	0.0	14.8	1,200	Mc Dugan	1,200.0	0.0	0.0	17.7	
59	McIntyre	100.0	0.0	0.0	14.8	736	NFC	110.0	11.0	1.3	10.5	
60	McIntyre	100.0	0.0	0.0	14.8	1,251	Ocean City	351.0	-0.0	1.9	25.0	
61	McIntyre	100.0	0.0	0.0	14.8	100	Ocean City	60.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	
62	McIntyre	100.0	0.0	0.0	14.8	131	Ocean Village	70.0	0.0	1.0	4.1	
63	McIntyre	100.0	0.0	0.0	14.8	5,049	P & O	5,049.0	0.0	0.0	22.2	
64	McIntyre	100.0	0.0	0.0	14.8	425.0	772	772	425.0	0.0	0.0	22.2
65	McIntyre	100.0	0.0	0.0	14.8	1,671	Williams	1,671.0	-0.0	0.0	23.7	
66	McIntyre	100.0	0.0	0.0	14.8	992	Palmers Ridge	592.0	0.0	0.0	37.8	
67	McIntyre	100.0	0.0	0.0	14.8	327	Sylvania Op	325.0	0.0	0.0	5.8	
68	McIntyre	100.0	0.0	0.0	14.8	39	Stevens	220.0	0.0	0.0	23.9	
69	McIntyre	100.0	0.0	0.0	14.8	5,105	Stuyvesant	5,105.0	0.0	0.0	12.2	
70	McIntyre	100.0	0.0	0.0	14.8	177	Thinks & B	274.0	0.0	0.0	9.4	
71	McIntyre	100.0	0.0	0.0	14.8	226	Toddville	115.0	0.0	0.0	10.0	
72	McIntyre	100.0	0.0	0.0	14.8	183	Transport Dev	200.0	x	0.5	6.4	
73	McIntyre	100.0	0.0	0.0	14.8	10	Van Carter	25.5	-2.0	0.0	0.0	

100	Brands	121.9	1.5	85.9	6,522	Anglo	73.6	0.5	67.17
101	Brands	121.9	1.5	85.9	6,522	Anglo	73.6	0.5	67.17
102	Brown Bp	171.9	-0.0	30.16	1,142	Aviation B	50.0	0.0	3.3
103	Campagna	371.5	-0.0	74.14	110	Bridal Veil	149.0	0.0	48.0
104	Chapin L Co	362.5	-0.2	87.10	57	De Valley Inc	149.0	0.0	48.0
105	Chen Co	222.5	-2.6	7.2	118	East Surrey	77.0	1.0	3.8
106	Chenoweth Co	240.0	-0.0	10.21	1,188	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
107	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
108	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
109	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
110	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
111	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
112	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
113	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
114	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
115	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
116	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
117	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
118	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
119	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
120	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
121	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
122	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
123	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
124	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
125	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
126	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
127	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
128	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
129	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
130	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
131	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
132	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
133	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
134	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
135	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
136	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
137	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
138	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
139	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
140	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
141	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
142	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
143	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
144	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
145	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
146	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
147	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
148	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
149	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
150	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
151	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
152	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
153	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
154	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
155	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
156	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
157	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
158	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
159	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
160	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
161	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
162	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
163	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
164	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
165	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
166	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
167	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
168	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
169	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
170	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
171	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
172	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
173	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
174	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
175	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
176	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
177	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
178	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
179	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
180	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
181	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
182	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
183	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
184	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
185	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
186	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
187	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
188	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
189	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
190	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
191	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
192	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
193	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
194	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
195	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
196	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
197	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
198	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
199	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
200	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
201	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
202	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
203	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
204	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
205	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
206	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
207	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
208	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
209	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
210	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
211	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
212	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
213	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
214	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
215	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
216	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
217	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
218	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
219	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
220	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
221	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
222	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
223	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
224	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
225	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
226	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
227	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
228	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
229	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
230	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
231	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
232	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
233	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
234	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
235	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
236	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
237	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
238	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
239	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8	118	Empire	45.5	7.3	7.3
240	Chenoweth Co	270.0	1.5	1.8					

1	Algeria	420.0	1.3	43.8	14.5
2	Albania	675.0	47.5	34.7	10.0
3	Algeria	463.0	5.9	10.3	6.4
4	Algeria	191.9	5.0	3.9	15.7
5	Algeria	57.5	4.5	8.0	10.5
6	Algeria	110.0	105.1	-	-
7	Algeria	80.0	-31.5	-2.8	25.3
8	Algeria	47.5	0.0	1.8	23.5
9	Algeria	255.0	15.0	4.2	13.8
10	Algeria	2115.0	-1.0	1.2	17.1
11	Algeria	111.0	20.5	14.6	1.0
12	Algeria	35.5	1.0	-	7.5
13	Algeria	770.0	2.5	0.9	10.0
14	Algeria	54.5	5.0	-	14.0
15	Algeria	754.0	-12.5	0.8	35.6
16	Algeria	2325.0	612.5	1.1	1.0
17	Algeria	150.0	-3.5	7.4	7.2
18	Algeria	32.0	2.0	15.2	10.7
19	Algeria	167.5	3.0	1.1	34.9
20	Algeria	42.5	0.0	-	4.0
21	Algeria	163.0	10.0	17.1	25.0
22	Algeria	44.5	-4.0	10.8	2.5
23	Algeria	200.0	35.5	0.0	19.0
24	Algeria	395.5	-4.5	2.3	24.4
SUPPORT SERVICES					0.1-65.0
25	Algeria	1172.5	-25.5	3.3	46.5
26	Algeria	242.5	10.0	3.6	14.6
27	Algeria	-	-	-	-
28	Algeria	-	-	-	-
29	Algeria	-	-	-	-
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37	Algeria	-	-	-	-
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39	Algeria	-	-	-	-
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42	Algeria	-	-	-	-
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52	Algeria	-	-	-	-
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56	Algeria	-	-	-	-
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74	Algeria	-	-	-	-
75	Algeria	-	-	-	-
76	Algeria	-	-	-	-</

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9	Yates	770.5	-28.0	1.4	62.8	3	Perris Gasworks	73.5	14.0
10	Hayes Hutton	220.2	-2.8	6.0	15.2	133	Peter Martin & Co.	94.5	-41.8
11	Harley	121.1	5.5	7.0	10.0	120	Phoenix P.C.	120.1	0.0
12	INET	382.0	0.0	1.0	56.8	129	Pharmacia Pluma	47.1	0.0
13	ISA Higgs	140.0	-13.0	0.0	12.0	127	Presley City	6.5	0.0
14	Isle of Man	389.0	4.5	5.7	1.0	120	Prism Inc.	28.5	0.0
15	Isuzu Motors	145.5	0.0	0.0	49.1	9	Protonics Systems	11.5	1.0
16	IT&S	507.5	-0.5	1.5	17.8	178	Procter & Gamble P.C.	245.5	-42.5
17	Jacobsen Corp.	75.5	-73.2	0.5	67.4	21	Ramco Energy	260.0	0.0
18	Jack Lange & Co.	189.0	2.0	0.0	50.0	21	Rapac Tech Corp.	5.5	0.0
19	Jays Corp.	184.5	-2.0	1.4	31.2	37	Ravenhill & Carr	9.5	0.0
20	JM Corp.	115.5	-30.0	0.0	12.7	16	Reichart & Co.	180.0	12.2
21	M&M Group	212.5	2.0	26.0	14.0	25	Seco Systems	215.0	1.5
22	M&S & Co.	655.0	-1.0	4.8	20.7	3	Selec Energy	6.3	-11.5
23	M&C	34.5	0.0	0.0	11.0	10	Selec Tech	90.0	0.0
24	Mannett Abbey	102.0	-1.0	10.0	27.5	14	Spartan Industries	10.5	0.0
25	Martins	117.2	-1.0	0.0	5.7	14	Scaphicon	352.5	-225.0
26	McGraw	155.5	-0.0	0.0	9.7	3	Schaeff	116.0	17.1
27	Melroe	154.5	0.5	6.0	43.8	135	Seal Holdings	143.5	-1.0
28	METEC Corp.	175.0	0.0	10.0	34.0	120	Seaton Group Network	607.6	15.2
29	Miami Hills	42.0	5.5	4.8	17.5	121	Seaton Group	5.5	0.0
30	Manitowoc	670.0	-27.5	1.2	24.4	120	Seaton Holdings	54.0	0.0
31	Marshall	52.5	-22.5	1.9	41.1	11	Seaton Holdings	12.0	0.0
32	Marshall	22.0	0.5	2.5	4.7	11	Seaton Holdings	12.0	0.0
33	PGSI	49.0	0.0	3.2	10.9	10	Seaton Holdings	12.0	0.0
34	Scotti Shire	537.5	-4.0	15.9	1.9	211	Seaton Holdings	12.0	0.0

unable to publish the week's  
main movers

source: **Bloomberg**  
[www.bloomberg.com/uk](http://www.bloomberg.com/uk)

**SHARE PRICE DATA**

Prices are in sterling except where stated. Price reflects the official closing price. Sector movements based on the FTSE-350. The yield is the latest 12 month, declared price dividend as a percentage of the share price. The price-earnings (P/E) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding extraordinary items not including exceptional items. Other categories are: Rights, a dividend in cash or a Share Award; a Parity Price, no Nil Paid. All UK City Prices are Bloomberg Quotes.

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For more information on the service, call the Help Desk on 0870-600-4300.

plc, London EC2A 4PA.

$\frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{1}{2} m v^2 \right) = \frac{1}{2} m \frac{d}{dt} (v^2)$

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unable to publish the week's  
main movers

**SOURCE: Bloomberg**  
[www.bloomberg.com/uk](http://www.bloomberg.com/uk)

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## SHARE PRICE DATA

and are in sliding average where stated. Price reflects the official closing time price. Sector movements  
based on the FTSE-100. The yield is the latest 12 months' declared gross dividend as a percentage  
of the share price. The price/earnings (P/E) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per  
share, excluding extraordinary items or excluding extraordinary items. Other statistics are: Earnings  
per share suspended, a Parity Paid on Nil Paid, "AM" City Prices are Bloomberg's General.

**SOURCE: Bloomberg**

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will hear the current FTSE 100 index followed by a 500 Market Summary Report  
can interrupt at any time to hear a Real-Time Share Price by keying in "plus a 4-digit code" from the  
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help with this service including the Portfolio facility, call the Help Desk on  
0-600-4200

plc. London EC2A 4PL. 09001 calls cost 60p per minute

unable to publish the week's  
main movers

**SOURCE: Bloomberg**  
[www.bloomberg.com/uk](http://www.bloomberg.com/uk)

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## SHARE PRICE DATA

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**SOURCE: Bloomberg**

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will hear the current FTSE 100 index followed by a 500 Market Summary Report  
can interrupt at any time to hear a Real-Time Share Price by keying in "plus a 4-digit code" from the  
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help with this service including the Portfolio facility, call the Help Desk on  
0-600-4200

plc. London EC2A 4PL. 09001 calls cost 60p per minute

DATE: 11-2-2011

# Bookies cash in on the boom in blue-chip betting

## STOCK MARKET WEEK



FRANCESCO GUERRERA

DARING punters will today be given a new instrument to test their stock market expertise.

The bookmaker Sporting Index is launching Financial Spreads, a dedicated stock market spread betting service aimed at retail and semi-professional investors. The venture is the first new entrant for 15 years in the financial spreads market, which is dominated by the two arch-rivals City Index and IG Index.

The financial spread betting market is booming and Sporting, the UK leader in sports spread betting, wants to cash in on it.

Last year, punters placed 250,000 financial bets with City and IG, compared with a mere 70,000 three years ago. Within the next two years, the total should rise to around 350,000, valuing the overall market at over £10m.

Sporting, run by two former merchant bankers and backed by Electra Investment Trust, plans to offer a standard range of spread bets and a couple of quirky innovations. Fluctuating punters will be able to bet by phone on the FTSE 100 index and on individual blue-chip stocks as well as the Dow, the Nikkei and a swathe of futures contracts.

The basic spread bet is simple enough. Imagine that the FTSE 100 is trading at 6,025. The bookmaker will quote a spread of say 6,021-6,029. If you think the index is likely to go higher, you "buy" the spread and bet Financial Spreads' minimum stake of £2 per point. Conversely, if you think the market is heading for a fall, you "sell" the spread with the same stake. At the end of the day, the FTSE 100 settles at 6,080. If you bought the



Lindsay McNeile (left) and Compton Hellyer, the chief executive and chairman of Sporting Index. Colin Beere

market you win £104 – the difference between the higher end of the spread (6,029) and the final tally (6,080) times your stake. If you went for a fall, the reverse happens and you will have to dish out £118.

For the really cautious investor, Sporting is offering an option whereby stakes range from 50p to £5 a point, but the maximum loss is limited to £200.

If used wisely, spread betting can be a useful tool for the retail investor. For a start, it is simpler and faster than going through a traditional broker. It also pays tax-free winnings because Sporting, the UK leader in sports spread betting, will pay for the duty charged on every bet.

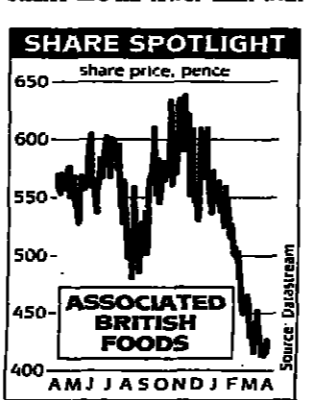
It can even allow a form of do-it-yourself hedging for the millions of investors with personal portfolios and shares in PEPs and ISAs. If your investment vehicle holds shares in a particular company and you think that the stock is heading south, a carefully placed sell order against the stock could offset the negative effect of the share price slide on your savings. The after-hours opening, from 7am to 9.30pm, also gives punters the chance to hedge after the market has closed.

So shall we forget our old-fashioned brokers and go down

to the spread bookies? Not so fast. Spread betting hides a couple of major catches.

The first and most obvious one is that exponential wins can easily turn into exponential losses, much higher than on the boring old stock market. More importantly, the spread offered by Financial Spreads is higher than the one quoted by stockbrokers. The bookie claims that the larger spread goes to pay for the after-hours opening, the betting duty and the constant update of spreads, but there is no doubt that spread betting is a more expensive way to play the market than dealing through a broker.

The other caveat is about credit limits. Sure, minimum stakes are far lower than with



stockbrokers, but punters need to provide security equal to four times their credit limit. If you want a credit limit of £2,000, you have at least £8,000 in cash or shares.

Financial spread betting fans will not have much to get their teeth into this week, as only a handful of FTSE 100 members are due to report. Associated British Foods kicks off today, with yearly profits likely to be flat at £190m. The Silver Spoon sugar to Twinings tea group has not digested the effects of the strong pound and tough milling markets, while banking markets have been squeezed by the supermarkets' bread wars.

ABF will have to say something positive on trading if it wants to see the shares come back to last year's 600p high from the current 426.25p. The chairman Garry Weston, who controls nearly two-thirds of the shares with his family, will also have to field questions about ABF's plans for its £1.4bn cash pile.

Bank of Scotland will produce a solid set of final earnings, say £244m versus £242m last year. Add a £14m exceptional gain from the sale of its New Zealand-based bank to Lloyds TSB and headline profits will probably top £1bn for the first

time ever. Good margins, a rise in investment income and lower bad loans provisions will be behind the figures.

SmithKline Beecham and Imperial Chemical Industries, both with first-quarter results, will complete the FTSE 100 showing. The drug group will inject an advance of around 13 per cent to £37m, driven by flu-season sales of the antibiotic Augmentin. Profits at the debt-laden ICI will slump some 60 per cent to £35m. Commodity chemicals are the main culprits. Part of the operations were sold to Huntsman of the US last week but the focus will be on further disposals.

The undercard will be active, with Debenhams likely to steal the show. The department store group, demerged from Burton a couple of years ago, will report flat interim profits at around £76m. Sales are still falling, but margin increases and the improving retail environment augur well for the future.

Results from DFS, the furniture maker run by the Conservative Party benefactor Graham Kirkham, are eagerly awaited to gauge whether the depressed sofas and beds market is heading for a recovery. Profits will be down to around £1m, from £18.2 last time round.

# Virgin takes action to stop 'spamming' on the Internet

IN THE FIRST legal case in this country over "spamming" on the Internet, the online division of Virgin is suing a Surrey-based businessman who sent a quarter of a million unsolicited e-mails at a time.

Virgin Net says that Adrian Paris, trading as ProPhoto UK, launched a series of "bulk e-mails" last year that brought chaos to its computer systems and prompted thousands of complaints from recipients of the e-mails.

The practice of sending huge amounts of unsolicited e-mails, dubbed "spamming", has already led to several high profile court cases in the US. America Online (AOL), America's biggest Internet service provider (ISP), has fought a number of legal battles against spammers. But Virgin's is the first such action in this country.

Virgin Net says that Mr Paris, of Camberley, Surrey, first sent out e-mails to "a very large number of persons" last July. Mr Paris was offering to sell a database of e-mail addresses, in quantities of 1 million to 10 million, with a purchase price of £15 to £105.

This "first bulk e-mail" prompted 100 complaints to Virgin Net, it says. Mr Paris sent an e-mail to Virgin Net apologising, and Virgin Net in turn wrote to him saying that the terms and conditions of Mr Paris's e-mail Internet account with Virgin.

Nevertheless, according to Virgin, Mr Paris went on to send out three further bulk e-mails, one to over a quarter of a million addresses. This prompted over a thousand complaints, it says. Virgin also claims that Mr Paris's spamming led other ISPs to refuse to pass on all e-mails emanating from Virgin Net customers, a process dubbed "blackholing".

Virgin Net has decided to take a stand and is seeking injunctions to prevent Mr Paris from applying for any more e-mail accounts with Virgin Net or making any more "bulk e-mails". It is also suing Mr Paris for breach of contract and tres-

## WHO'S SUING WHOM

JOHN WILLCOCK

pass, since Mr Paris used Virgin Net's computer system to carry out his spamming.

Virgin Net is an internet service provider launched by Richard Branson in November 1996. It provides services such as e-mail, web space and editorial services to over 160,000 subscribers. It recently scrapped its subscription fee.

A spokesman for Virgin Net said: "We've had some limited contact with Adrian Paris. We served a writ on him on Thursday night... We feel we've got a good case, which deserves to be heard by the courts. We've got rather fed up with spamming and we know that a lot of our customers feel the same way."

The spokesman continued: "We want to send a clear message to spammers to desist. It's a nuisance issue for consumers and a reputation issue for us."

One of Mr Paris's e-mails informed recipients how to send bulk e-mails themselves. "If people think they can make money out of sending bulk e-mails themselves, it becomes something like a pyramid selling scheme," said the spokesman.

AN EXETER soft drinks supplier has been jailed for 28 days for contempt of court following legal action by Coca-Cola and Schweppes, who alleged that he sold Coca-Cola containers filled with other manufacturers' cola syrup.

Last year the two drinks giants sued Karl Mabe, trading as K&M Syrups, for refilling Coca-Cola containers with other generic soft drink syrup and passing it off as the real thing to pubs and hotels in the West Country.

The companies got an

"Anton Pillar" order from the high court in October to search Mr Mabe's premises in Devon for possible incriminating evidence.

When their representatives tried to search his premises Mr Mabe refused them entry. Last month Mr Justice Rafter described this as a "flagrant contempt of this court" and sentenced Mr Mabe to 28 days in jail.

A GROUP of eight American record companies have taken action to freeze assets of up to £1m held in a London bank account on behalf of Danny Jordan, a Florida businessman they accuse of CD piracy.

The eight companies, which include A&M, Capital Records and Warner Communications, are already taking court action against Mr Jordan and a number of his companies in the courts in Florida.

It has emerged during the trial in America that Mr Jordan holds assets in a Bank of Scotland account. The companies, which also include BMG, Sony, MCA Records, PolyGram and Warner Brothers Records, have now launched an action in London to freeze the account, which they say holds up to £1m.

A GERMAN printing company is suing a British supplier of software, over the copyright to typefaces designed by the famous British graphic designer Neville Brody. Mindscape International of Great James Street, London, is being sued over its CD-Rom entitled PrintMaster Publishing Suite 7.0.

Heidelberg Druckmaschinen, a designer and licensor of typefaces based in Bad Homburg, Germany, and its subsidiary Linotype Library, are seeking an injunction to stop Mindscape using three of their typefaces, titled "Industria", "Insignia" and "Duc De Berry".

The first two typefaces were designed by Neville Brody for Linotype in 1989, while Duc De Berry was designed by a German, Professor Gottfried Pott, the following year, also for Linotype.

## WHAT THE PAPERS SAID

A ROUND-UP OF SUNDAY BUSINESS STORIES

### THE INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY

■ Freeserve, the free Internet service set up by Dixons, the high street retailer, is suing rival AOL for malicious slander and falsehood. In a writ lodged in the High Court, Freeserve alleges that customers with CompuServe who phoned to cancel their subscriptions in order to switch to Freeserve were told that Freeserve's offer of free Internet access was temporary and that the service would eventually become fee-paying. CompuServe is owned by AOL.

■ Opposition has hardened to Brands Hatch Leisures' bid for Silverstone among members of the British Racing Drivers Club, which owns the motor racing circuit. Members, who include Stirling Moss and Jackie Stewart, say they are irritated by the tone of an open letter by BHR's chief executive Nicola Foulston criticising a restructuring plan devised by

bankers Dresdner Kleinwort Benson for the club.

### The Sunday Telegraph

■ Laura Ashley is in talks with several buyers about its troubled US division and may announce the sale in the next two weeks. The fashion retailer delayed its full-year figures, which were due last week, and is expected to confirm the sale when its figures come out in 10 days' time. Its bankers have agreed to extend its revolving credit facility provided it sells the US business which has 130 stores.

■ Michael Hardern, the butler turned carpet-bagger, is preparing to abandon his bid for election to the board of Britannia Building Society.

### The Mail

■ Chancellor Gordon Brown faces criticism over why the Eu-

ropean Bank for Reconstruction and Development is pouring taxpayers' money into Russia despite having had to triple its bad debt provision for that country following last summer's massive bond default. The governing board of the EBRD, made up of finance ministers from member countries, began its annual meeting in London yesterday.

### THE SUNDAY TIMES

■ Royal Bank of Scotland will this week launch a fresh pitch for a £41bn merger with Barclays. RBS chief executive George Mathewson returns from skiing this week and plans a renewed attempt to woo Barclays, possibly by offering Sir Peter Middleton the chairmanship of the combined group and a fair share-out of the top jobs.

■ Private Equity groups Civen, KKR and CVC are vying for the £1.3bn automotive busi-

nesses of Invensys, the former BTR-Siebe.

### SUNDAY BUSINESS

■ Reuters' employees in the US voted in favour of potential strike action over pay and conditions, threatening the British-based provider of news and financial information with its first strike in 20 years. Reuters said there would be no interruption of services as a result of any action by staff represented by the union, the Communications Workers of America, who account for around 25 per cent of the 2,300 Reuters US staff.

■ Motor distributor Inchcape will announce a £530m cash windfall to shareholders. The payment is from the proceeds of the disposal programme initiated by the chief executive Philip Cushing 12 months ago. Mr Cushing has said he will leave the company this summer.

## CLASSIFIED

### Charities

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### Art Galleries

PASTEL SOCIETY 100TH ANNUAL EXHIBITION 10-21 March, Daily 10-5. THE MALL GALLERIES The Mall (near Admiralty Arch) London SW1

### Announcements

RUKBA THE ANNUAL General Meeting of The Royal United Kingdom Benefactor Association will be held at the Plasterers' Hall, No. 1, London Wall, London EC2 at 3.00pm on Monday 26th May 1999 to receive the report of the committee and the accounts for 1998 and to elect members of the committee and the auditors.

### Metro Hearts

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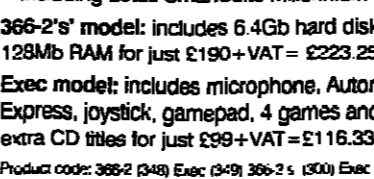
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26% APR  
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Direct Sales Lines Open: Monday - Friday 9.30am - 7pm, Saturday 9am - 5pm, Sunday 10am - 4pm



**2** Graham Kelly on the match that had everything



**6** Doherty eyes the big prize

**11** Westwood fulfils his Eastern promise



**12** Chepchumba record run takes the London Marathon



# SPORT

19 April 1999

Premiership: Tactical substitution backfires and costs Vialli's side valuable ground in championship race

## Guppy punishes Chelsea

YESTERDAY IN London may have been a good day to be reminded of the old cliché that the championship is a marathon rather than a sprint, but Chelsea supporters boarding the District Line at stations along the Embankment en route to Stamford Bridge could have told their team this is no time to slow down.

Conceding two goals in the last seven minutes to Leicester, four days after failing to hit the front by winning at Middlesbrough, appeared to justify Gianluca Vialli's pessimistic observations a month ago that the race would be won by Manchester United or Arsenal.

With his team deservedly leading 2-0, and about to move within one point of United, Vialli must have been prepared to modify that point of view, which had been put forward out of disappointment rather than deviance following the unexpected home defeat by West Ham on 13 March. Then Leicester's delightfully old-fashioned left-winger, Steve Guppy, began to take advantage of Albert Ferrer's removal in a tactical substitution. Ian Marshall - sent on as an extra attacker - started winning everything in the air and Chelsea's much vaunted defence suddenly looked a flimsy affair.

In the 83rd minute Matt Elliott, who had been credited, against his wishes, with an own goal to put Chelsea two up, forced Ferrer's replacement, Michael Duberry, into a similar embarrassment.

Five minutes later Guppy had them whooping in Stamford and Highbury as well as Leicester by curling in an equaliser. It left Chelsea only one point in front of Arsenal ahead of the champions' home game against Wimbledon tonight, and three adrift of United, who also have a game to spare.

After the match, Vialli kept his thoughts to himself, again sending his temporary assistant Ray Wilkins to explain the tactical change and the team's collapse. "With Marshall coming on, we felt it would be difficult to defend set-plays and thought Michael Duberry would give us aerial ability," Wilkins said. "We had the quality to have held out, but we defended far too deep. They went route one and we didn't cope with it. It makes it very difficult for us now with five games left. We'd have to win all five and hope the others slip up. But they've got some tough games."

Playing at home to Wimbledon does not come into that category at present and Chelsea should be prepared for another setback this evening before setting off to Spain for the second leg of the European Cup-Winners' Cup semi-final against Real Mallorca.

BY STEVE TONGUE

Chelsea 2  
Leicester City 2

A point either way means little at this stage to Leicester, but their manager Martin O'Neill's delight was tempered only by a nasty injury to the defender Robert Ullathorne, who broke a leg in two places attempting to prevent Gianfranco Zola lobbing the first goal.

That was after 30 mostly soporific minutes, the roast lunch kick-off time and Majorcan temperatures early on giving a hazy, lazy feel to proceedings. Other than a header from Tore Andre Flo, well held by Kasey Keller, little had occurred until the first of several astute passes by Roberto Di Matteo sent Zola through. In just enough space between Elliott and the unfortunate Ullathorne, the little Italian lifted his shot carefully over Keller, who then collided with his already stricken colleague.

It was a first goal in eight games for Zola, enabling him to forget Wednesday's late miss at Middlesbrough and play a significant part in setting up further opportunities for Flo, substitute Gustavo Poyet and Di Matteo. The latter created his second goal in the 69th minute with another cleverly flighted pass down the inside-right channel. Keller again raced from goal only to see the ball lobbed over him once more, this time by Dan Petrescu. It hit the post, then hit Elliott and landed in the net.

Chelsea, who had not brought Graeme Le Saux on until half-time, appeared to be thinking of Thursday's game in Spain - if not the beach - as Jody Morris was withdrawn, but Leicester had barely begun. Elliott did little other than nudge the ball into the six-yard box, where Duberry obligingly deflected it past the goalkeeper.

Marshall won four headers in as many minutes to create scoring chances, yet the equaliser was an individualistic effort from Guppy, easily evading Petrescu's limp challenge to curl a shot inside the far post.

"We were terrific and I'm really proud of the way they've picked themselves up after the Worthington Cup final," O'Neill said. Now Chelsea need the pick-me-up. Goals: Zola (30) 1-0; Elliott og (68) 2-0; Duberry og (83) 2-1; Savage (88) 2-2. Chelsea (3-5-2): De Gooijer (Duberry, 75), Levent, Dacally, Petrescu, Morris (Marshall, 70), Di Matteo, Wise, Goldbach (Le Saux, 4-1); Flo, Zola. Substitutes not used: Forsyth, Hitchcock (90). Leicester City (3-5-2): Keller, Ullathorne (Marshall, 31), Sinclair, Elliott, Impey, Savage, Lennon, Gunlagaeson (Marshall, 70), Guppy, Hickey, Gutter. Substitutes not used: Miller, Fenlon, Ahernead (84). Referee: M. Road (Birmingham). Bookings: Chelsea: Petrescu, Leicester: Keller. Most of the match: Di Matteo. Attendance: 34,535.



Gianfranco Zola lobbs Chelsea into a 1-0 lead in yesterday's drawn Premiership match against Leicester City at Stamford Bridge

David Ashdown

Football: 2-5 ■ Graham Kelly 12 ■ The Week's Draw: 6 ■ Rugby: 10-11 ■ Cricket: 9 ■ Racing: 10-11

### 14 year old long jumper lands in Florida.



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# A draining experience, but a memorable one

I RAN TO the newsagent early on Thursday morning. The FA Cup semi-final replay between Arsenal and Manchester United at Villa Park the night before had so gripped my imagination I wanted to read all about it as soon as possible.

The teams' fortunes fluctuated wildly as the match ebbed and flowed. The pace was intense, the tension unrelenting and the drama unrelenting.

First United threatened to take control after David Beckham's wonderful strike past David Seaman. Chances were squandered by Ole Gunnar Solskjær and Jesper Blomqvist. Then the match swung towards Arsenal. Dennis Bergkamp earned the good fortune to see his shot wickedly deflected off Jaap Stam into Peter Schmeichel's net. Roy Keane's over-exuberance

brought him another sending off, and United found themselves on the ropes. But, after Schmeichel saved Bergkamp's penalty, Arsenal could not make their numerical advantage tell in extra time, and Ryan Giggs stunned the Gunners with his virtuoso goal to clinch another Wembley appearance for United.

Schmeichel, as so often, was a colossus. He, more than any other player, even Eric Cantona, has been the kingpin of Alex Ferguson's success. Very rarely has the giant Dane made costly errors.

Having used his three substitutes, would Ferguson really have put Paul Scholes in goal if Schmeichel's groin injury in extra time had forced him to come off? I would love to have seen Scholes defending corners against Tony Adams, Martin Keown and Steve Bould!

Teddy Sheringham, keen to make a point, played an absolutely exceptional 75 minutes until the loss of Keane forced his substitution by Scholes. His first touch was supreme. His vision acute and his ability to find space superb. For the last five seasons or so, he above any other English player has shown how to link forward play seamlessly. If only Sheringham had possessed an initial burst of pace to go with his intuitive football brain.

Everywhere you looked, there were huge characters engaging in fierce, yet for the most part fair, and honest tussles. Martin Keown thoughtfully patrolled the Gunners' back line, then laid the ball off to his midfielders. Tony Adams was serenely calm and confident. He even found time to join in Arsenal's attempts for a winning goal.



GRAHAM KELLY

Jaap Stam was the forward-most United player on one occasion as he led them out of defence. Having been cautioned earlier, the craggy Dutchman trod a disciplinary tightrope as he repeatedly jostled with Bergkamp, who had to drop deep to find space later.

The gritty Nigel Winterburn worked hard to subdue Beckham, who had to check his own challenges, having been cautioned in the first half for a careless late tackle.

Gary Neville had suffered one or two lapses in recent matches. On Wednesday he played himself out of his sticky patch with courage, skill and determination.

In the middle of the field, Emmanuel Petit returned to join Patrick Vieira in a hotly-contested battle with Nicky Butt and Keane, as Ray Parlour threatened down the right flank.

Keane, now captain, follows in the long tradition of United's talented but fiery theodolites. Like Denis Law, Nobby Stiles, George Best and Cantona before him, the Irishman has tried to curb his recklessness. However, the heat of the struggle again proved too much for him on Wednesday night. A late challenge on Bergkamp produced a yellow card; he told the Dutchman to get up. Then he felled substitute Marc Overmars and did not wait for the red card before turning towards the nearby tunnel.

I doubt if there is malice in his make-up; he simply needs to win so much. Yet, after his magnificent strike was disallowed in the first game, he was generous in his post-match comments, saying that it was all part of the game and that United must simply win the replay.

There was no stronger personality on the pitch than referee David Elleray, who gave a magnificent display of unfettered, sensitive control and impeccable judgement as the tackles flew in. Quite amazingly he also managed to play the advantage clause, most tellingly when

allowing play to proceed to the move's conclusion before cautioning Keown for a late tackle deep in the United half. Had Mr Elleray been a professional, he would have been at the top of his profession last Wednesday night.

There was a similar disallowed offside "goal" by Nicolas Anelka in the first game. It takes much longer to narrate the circumstances governing "active" and "passive" offside decisions than it does to reach those instantaneous judgements.

Giggs' fantastic winner was a goal fit to win a World Cup final, let alone the last FA semi-final replay. The country's meanest defence were left chasing shadows before the Welsh winger's fierce left-footer left David Seaman no chance. Exhilarating stuff. I was drained.

## Shearingham in with a shout

BY GUY HODGSON

Manchester United 3  
Sheffield Wednesday 0

WHEN ALEX FERGUSON took the microphone to whip up the crowd seconds before the kick-off, the sense of foreboding was complete. The Manchester United manager feared a dip after wonder-goal Wednesday and you could imagine Arsenal and Chelsea rubbing their hands too. He could have saved his voice, they thought.

In theory the other Wednesday, Sheffield, ought to have provided prickly opposition for a team fighting on three fronts, but they were so supine United would gladly meet them every time they are caught between big matches. Pathetic is not too strong a word for the visitors.

"United won at an absolute canter," a disgruntled Danny Wilson said. "It's possibly the biggest crowd they'll ever get for a five-a-side game because that was the tempo we played. A few home truths have been told and feathers have been ruffled."

Which indicates that the Wednesday manager's tongue is more abrasive and energetic than his players because they left United serenely unconcerned. Ferguson rested seven players and withdrew Jaap Stam and Roy Keane after the hour, and yet they would have improved on last year's 6-1 rout had it not been for half a dozen saves from Pavel Srnicek.

So poor were the visitors, the Juventus spy would still be giggling at the suggestion that the Premiership is the most competitive league in the world if he was not so livid that Wednesday had taken so little out of this week's European Cup semi-final opponents. The Italians must have been drained more by their 3-1 defeat of Lazio in Rome.

After a promising first quarter when Benito Carbone brought an athletic save out of Raimond van der Gouw, Wednesday's tactic was to defend so deeply United would have needed to be comatose rather than weary not to accept the invitation to attack. The play was questionable at 0-0 but ludicrous once Ole Gunnar Solskjær had scored his 17th goal of the season. The least Juve, Arsenal and Chelsea would have expected was for Wednesday to chase the game but this minimum was beyond them.

So flaccid was the response, Wilson was asked if Wednesday, mindful of a possible Fair Play place in the Uefa Cup, had given up tackling. "It's not even mentioned at the club," he replied. "I'd rather get another 10 bookings and win a football game."

He was embarrassed; Ferguson was purring. United had moved closer to the title at the cost of less effort than a training ground kick-about. The injured Ryan Giggs apart, his sole dilemma for the Juventus game is who to play in attack.

Teddy Sheringham used to be the forgotten man of Old Trafford but since he has been irrepressible, and on Saturday he was the reincarnated thinking man's striker.



Sheffield Wednesday's Emerson Thome (centre) and Des Walker watch as Pavel Srnicek makes an outstanding save from Teddy Sheringham. Neal Simpson/Empics

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His touches set up Solskjær's and Scholes' goals and his strike was so good it ought to make it into the FA heading instruction video. The one thing the visitors had been adept at was aerial clearance but his dart to the near post lost his marker and, with a delicate glance, he diverted Solskjær's cross into the far corner.

A week ago you could have bet your house on Dwight Yorke and Andy Cole starting against Juventus but Sheringham has clouded the picture if only because he does not surrender possession lightly. Against opponents who sometimes do not give the ball back for five minutes, that ability is priceless.

"I've got to analyse in my own mind what Juventus will do," Ferguson said enigmatically, "and that will have a bearing on how I pick my team."

Given that the Italians did not relish Sheringham's power in the first leg, he will be tempted to use him from the start

with the comforting thought that Cole's speed will be more destructive if it is introduced after an hour.

Wilson, for one, believes United can successfully overcome the disadvantage of the 1-1 home draw. "They have a great chance of going through," he said. "You can't write a team off with the talent they've got. I hope Juventus do count their chickens, that they think it's a foregone conclusion, because they might have a surprise."

After woeful Wednesday, a different kind of Wednesday all together.

Goals: Solskjær (35) 1-0; Sheringham (44) 2-0; Scholes (60) 3-0. Manchester United (4-4-2): Van der Gouw, C. Neville, Brown, Sørensen (52), P. Neville, Scholes, Keane (Greening, 62), Butt, Blomqvist (Irwin, 74); Sheringham, Scholes. Substitutes not used: Beckham, Yorke.

Sheffield Wednesday (4-4-2): Srnicek, Atkinson, Thome, Walker, Hinckley, Alexander (Scott, 50), Sonner, Jolly, Rudy, Booth (Cresswell, 70), Carbone. Substitutes not used: Briscoe, Stefanovic, Pressman (94).

Referee: W. Barry (Scunthorpe). Bookings: None. Man of the match: Sheringham. Attendance: 55,270.

## Edwards' cash warning

THE REPERCUSSIONS of the blocked BSkyB bid to buy Manchester United are coming home to roost at Old Trafford. This summer they will be able to replace the departing Peter Schmeichel but that could be the limit of their expenditure, write Guy Hodgson and Alan Nixon.

Manager Alex Ferguson had hoped to emulate last year's £27m investment on players in order for United to compete at home and abroad in the expanded Champions' League but chief executive Martin Edwards has said that is unlikely.

"We are spending £44m over the next two years developing the Stretford and Scoreboard Ends to expand the capacity to 67,000 and also on the new training complex at Carrington," Edwards said. "We have to make sure we don't go heavily into the red. It isn't a bottomless pit. We will have to replace Peter

Schmeichel but that might be the end of our summer spending."

Ferguson's sights have now returned to Aston Villa's Mark Bosnich to replace Schmeichel. The Australian was a United target earlier in the season, but his wage demands of around £60,000 a week scared them off. However, talks have begun again to persuade him to lower his demands.

BSkyB's bid of £623m, which was blocked 10 days ago by the Trade and Industry Secretary Stephen Byers, was made on the understanding that Ferguson would be allowed to buy players in the close season. That potential money has now been denied a club whose recently announced interim profit of £15.98m was down on the £15.39m of the previous year.

"There were no figures mentioned about how much money Sky would pump in," Edwards said. "However, we believed

within reason that they would have supported the board with what they wanted to do. Obviously no one is going to write you a blank cheque but the resources would have been better."

Ferguson said: "He [Edwards] hasn't said anything to me about money and in fairness I haven't asked. But the demands of the Champions' League will be enormous."

In Saturday's match programme Edwards wrote: "We thought with the backing of one of the world's most able media companies we could have underpinned our domestic position and increased our ability to do more than just challenge for European honours."

"We believe the 'silent majority' of United fans were supportive of the bid - we certainly know that supporters of other clubs were delighted that our plans were thwarted."

Perhaps even more worrying for him was the way that Liverpool were frequently outplayed and overrun in midfield. John Gregory had opted to anchor it solidly by playing Mark Draper and Ian Taylor in central roles, leaving Paul Merson on the bench. There was a risk that it would prove all anchor and no billowing sail, but in the end it worked very nicely.

Taylor got the winning goal, although how voluntary his vital touch on Julian Joachim's shot was only he will know. But Draper's was perhaps the most eye-catching performance on the day, with his energy and accuracy contrasting with the full contributions of Paul Ince and Jamie Redknapp.

After a sticky patch that has, in all probability, cost Villa their chance of qualifying for Europe, expectations are rising at the club once more.

A run of four games undefeated represents a dramatic improvement, but even so, it still left Gregory disappointed on two scores - that they had not taken all 12 points from four games they could have won, and that they had not had this latest one in the bag at half-time.

Coming from a man who was last involved in a victory at Anfield 21 years ago, that is a mark of how little fear Liverpool strike into the opposition these days.

For all that, Houllier, the Liverpool manager, was adamant that he will not be coaxed away elsewhere, dismissing rumours that Paris St Germain have targeted him as "absolute nonsense."

The Frenchman is still in a honeymoon period on Merseyside, with few blaming him personally for the deterioration of the side, but his assessment of his problems and what is needed to solve them is naturally becoming more realistic.

"I'm enjoying the job," he insisted. "I know where we are and where we're going. We just have a huge task in front of us."

Goal: Taylor (33) 0-1. Nottingham Forest (3-4-1-2): Graydon, Edwards (4-4-2): James, Song (Dundas, 86), Carragher, Sisto, Biering (Leonardson, 8-0), McMahon, Redknapp, Maitland, Fowler, Rieley. Substitutes not used: Scunthorpe, Feni, Frade (8-1), Aspin, Wainwright, Wright, Soren, Calderwood, Bouchard, Wright, Soren, Taylor, Draper, Hendrie (Merson, 69), Dublin, Joachim (Barry, 50), Sisto, Sisto not used; Oakes, Delaney, Vassell. Referee: J. Winter (Lincoln). Bookings: Liverpool Song, Redie. Aston Villa Bosnich. Man of the match: Draper. Attendance: 44,306.

## West Ham warm up for a long summer

BY ADAM SZRETER

West Ham United 5  
Derby County 1

Real Madrid in the first round of the Uefa Cup," he said.

Whatever view you share, West Ham still have something to play for now, Derby do not and the outcome of this match was an accurate reflection of all that, notwithstanding Derby's lengthy list of absentees.

They started brightly, deploying a 4-3-3 which confounded West Ham's wing-back formation and created a few excellent openings in the first 10 minutes. But once Paolo Di Canio had opened the scoring with a deflected shot against the run of play, Derby capitulated

and West Ham went from strength to strength.

Di Canio was irrepressible in the first half, setting up a second goal for Eyal Berkovic, being denied a second himself by Russell Hoult's fingertips and rounding the half off with a dazzling run that brought the 25,000 crowd to its feet.

Ian Wright, on as a substitute in the 18th minute following an injury to Steve Potts, helped himself to a tap-in following Hoult's handling error, and Neil Ruddock and Trevor Sinclair applied the finishing touches in the air to some fine teamwork.

The West Ham goalkeeper Shaka Hislop made two or three superb saves, one in particular from Paulo Wanchope, who grabbed a late consolation for the visitors. But although he had a quiet second half, Di Canio was the spark for this goal explosion.

Goals: Di Canio (18) 1-0; Berkovic (28) 2-0; Wright (53) 3-0; Ruddock (64) 4-0; Sinclair (68) 5-0. Wanchope (79) 1-1. West Ham United (4-3-3): Hislop, Lomas (Cole, 71), Potts (Wright, 18), Piazzi, Ruddock, Minter, Berkovic, Fox, Lampard, Sinclair, Di Canio. Substitutes not used: Jelic, Rodon, Carrigan, Dorigo (Harper, 33), Robinson, Schuster, Powell, Sturridge, Wanchope, Beck (Murray, 50). Substitutes not used: Jackson, Christie, Poom (94).

Referee: A. Budge (Luton). Bookings: West Ham Wright, Derby Sturridge. Man of the match: Hislop. Attendance: 25,405.

## Forest denied a conclusive end to season of suffering

BY GRAHAM SNOWDON

Nottingham Forest 0  
Tottenham Hotspur 1

WHAT DO Nottingham Forest have to do to get themselves relegated? After a withering season more than 25,000 came to the City Ground on Saturday wondering if their team would finally be put out of their misery.

But despite Steven Iversen's winner for Spurs, a late equaliser from Marians Pahars 200 miles away in Southampton leaves Ron Atkinson's men with only the most contrived chance of avoiding the drop.

Should either Charlton Athletic or Blackburn Rovers gain two more points from their remaining five fixtures - almost

certain given that the two sides play one another on 1 May - Forest's fate will be confirmed.

With the season effectively over for both sides, attack was the order of the day. Forest deployed a formation which was perhaps intended to give Pierre van Hooijdonk a freer role behind the two forwards, but instead seemed only to confuse the lacklustre Dutchman.

George Graham, with a comparative embarrassment of forward options, went for a three-man attack of Les Ferdinand, Chris Armstrong and Iversen. At times they threatened to overwhelm the Forest back three who, Richard Gough apart, looked a jaded and dispirited unit. Outstanding at the back of the Tottenham midfield was Steven Freund, who again turned in a flawless display.

Were it not for poor finishing by Iversen and Armstrong, and a scuffed penalty from Allan Nielsen, Spurs could easily have scored more. None of these three should be over-confident

of surviving the forthcoming purge at White Hart Lane. "Any one who thinks this season is finished will find themselves sitting up in the stand," said Graham.

Gough received a warm reception from the Spurs fans in lieu of his days in north London. However, he will not be at the City Ground next season, having expressed a wish to return to San Jose instead of a season in the Nationwide League.

Neither, it seems increasingly likely, will Atkinson, another man known for his appreciation of sunnier climes.

"You won't be the first to know,

that's for sure," the Forest manager retorted, having been asked whether he would be staying. "When I decide, I will talk to the appropriate people."

Whether that decision is in his hands any more is questionable.

Goal: Nielsen (67) 0-1. Nottingham Forest (3-4-1-2): Graydon, Edwards (4-4-2): James, Song (Dundas, 86), Carragher, Sisto, Biering (Leonardson, 8-0), McMahon, Redknapp, Maitland, Fowler, Rieley. Substitutes not used: Scunthorpe, Feni, Frade (8-1), Aspin, Wainwright, Wright, Soren, Calderwood, Bouchard, Wright, Soren, Taylor, Draper, Hendrie (Merson, 69), Dublin, Joachim (Barry, 50), Sisto, Sisto not used; Oakes, Delaney, Vassell. Referee: J. Winter (Lincoln). Bookings: Liverpool Song, Redie. Aston Villa Bosnich. Man of the match: Draper. Attendance: 44,306.



Game Results 17/4/99.

This Saturday there were 8 score draws:

CHARLTON	V	LEEDS	WEST BROM	V	PORTSMOUTH
SOUTHAMPTON	V	BLACKBURN	YORK	V	STOKE
NORWICH	V	TRANMERE	ARROTH	V	LIVINGTON
STOCKPORT	V	BRISTOL C	O. O'SOUTH	V	INVERNESS CT

\*Matchmaker Adjudicated Results for postponed matches

Home wins (1): WYCOMBE V WIGAN.

Away wins (0): NONE.

No score draws (0): NONE.

Score draws (0): NONE.

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# Pahars an unlikely saviour for Saints



GLENN MOORE

IN THE increasingly eclectic world of the Premiership, no-one thought it at all odd that a Latvian called Marians should be the toast of The Dell on Saturday night.

Mark Hughes' first goal for Southampton, after 31 blanks - that was a surprise. Blackburn gaining a point on their bogey ground, that was also a surprise. But Marians Pahars, 22 years old (going on 10, to judge from his size and looks), gaining Southampton a draw within eight minutes of his home debut? Nothing odd in that. Southampton are used to miraculous escapes. They are the only team to have avoided relegation under Alan Ball's management.

Southampton	3
Blackburn Rovers	3

Normally Matt Le Tissier is their saviour but with his omnipotence fading the Southampton manager, David Jones, is having to search in ever-more unlikely places. Thus the purchase of Pahars, whose point rewarded Southampton's doggedness on and off the field. While his goal capped a spirited recovery from 3-1 down with 30 minutes to go, he was only available because Jones made three attempts to win him a work permit before finally succeeding.

However, another miracle may be required if Southampton are to stay up: an away win. They have taken four points away from The Dell in six months (three of them at Blackburn, the other at Nottingham Forest) and have lost their last seven on the road. Their home form (17 points from 21) remains solid but, with two of their remaining four matches away, they will probably have to win at either Derby next Saturday or Wimbledon on 8 May. Or possibly, given their poor goal difference, both.

It is often thought to be easier to gain points away from home these days. Grounds tend to be less intimidating and more homogenous



Ashley Ward opens the scoring for Blackburn Rovers in their 3-3 draw with Southampton at the Dell on Saturday

David Ashdown

while teams are better at the counter-attack, perhaps helped by better pitches.

Saturday's Premiership results highlighted the supposed trend with four away wins to two at home. However, a comparison with results 10 and 20 years ago in the top division does not bear this out. This season there have been 146 home wins (44 per cent) and 83 away wins (25 per cent) in 331 Premiership matches. Ten years ago 29 per cent of matches were away wins (41 per cent home), the same percentage as a decade earlier (45 per cent home).

Indeed, only one Premiership team, Forest, and two Nationwide League sides, Stoke (who are in a new ground) and Brighton (who play home games at Gillingham) have gained a higher percentage of their points away from home this season.

Home form is certainly important to Southampton whose ground, because of its cramped environment, is regarded as one of the most intimidating in the Premiership. Away, however, they are prone to folding as soon as they go behind. Jones, who said he has tried everything to get a result away from home, hoped

that the fact that his team were twice able to recover from being behind on Saturday will now encourage them on their travels.

The irony is that they need to stay up to finance the building of a new ground, though chairman Rupert Lowe insisted the re-location would go ahead even if relegation was suffered. "It would," he warned, "be more difficult."

This appeared to suggest less finance would be available to spend on the team, not that Jones has had millions to lavish on his polyglot side in any case. More worrying is the prospect that the better players - James Beattie, Paul Jones, Hassan

Kachloul - might have to be sold. It is not as if Le Tissier could still bring in £10m.

Southampton, whose team is more than the sum of its parts, obviously hope it does not come to that but their immediate future does not look good.

For all the euphoria at their comeback on Saturday it was still two home points dropped - and one allowed to their closest rivals at the bottom.

It could have been better, for Blackburn only just survived a series of late scrambles after Pahars' equaliser, but it should have been worse.

Southampton's defending was atrocious. Ashley Ward, running onto Kevin Gallacher's flick, was able to evade challenges from Claus Lundekvam and Scott Hiley before slipping a weak shot past Neil Moss. Then, after Chris Marsden had headed in Jason Dodd's cross, Darren Peacock, who had twice wasted chances to clear that attack, was allowed to make amends by escaping Lundekvam to side-foot in a corner.

When poor concentration by David Hughes enabled Jason Wilcox to head in Jason McAteer's cross it seemed over but Blackburn looked wobbly too and, once Hughes

turned in Beattie's low cross, the equaliser was almost inevitable. With the crowd roaring the Saints on, Dodd hoisted a long ball forward. Beattie nodded it down and Pahars headed in.

Blackburn, despite having spent £38m since last May, thus remain deep in trouble. They, too, travel badly but their next trip is as vital as this was: it is to Charlton on 1 May. Injuries have wrecked Brian Kidd's attempts to field a consistent side and, while there is no danger of his being sacked should they drop, his continued restructuring would be a lot more difficult in the First Division. However, unless Jack

Walker pulled out they would probably remain, while for Saints and Charlton the fear is that a drop would be permanent. That knowledge could make the difference for one of them.

Goals: Ward (14) 0-1; Marsden (22) 1-1; Peacock (25) 1-2; Wilcox (47) 1-3; M. Hughes (62) 2-3; Pahars (86) 3-3.

Southampton (4-3-1-2): Moss; Hiley (Pahars, 78); Lundekvam, Benali, Collier (D. Hughes, 74); Kachloul, Dodd, Marsden, Le Tissier; Beattie (Beattie, 74); M. Hughes, Substitutes not used: Briggs, Stensgaard (84).

Blackburn Rovers (4-4-2): Platt; McKee, Peacock, Henchoz, Brookes, Hiley, Davidson; Gillespie, Johnson (Duffy, 78); Carlsby, Wilcox, Gallacher (Davies, 70); Ward. Substitutes not used: Marcolin, Flowers (94).

Referee: G. Barber (Tring). Bookings: Southampton: Le Tissier, D. Hughes, Blackburn: Rovers: McAteer, Gillespie.

Man of the match: Beattie.

Attendance: 15,209.

# Positive side to Charlton's lot

BY STEVE TONGUE

Charlton Athletic	1
Leeds United	1

THIS BUSINESS of taking one game at a time is all very well for those hardened old pros. For the rest of us it is the time of season to take the whole lot at once; scanning the fixtures for the last day as feverishly as for the next day, calculating targets and totals and estimating the most favourable opposition to play.

Even a week ago, Leeds United would not have come into the latter category, as they went hunting a new club record of eight successive victories, but two weary performances in six days have confirmed that Manchester United, Arsenal and Chelsea need not fear forthcoming encounters against them. With David O'Leary's youngsters, on his own admission, hitting the wall a few miles short of the finishing tape, Liv-

erpool earned a comfortable point at Elland Road last Monday, and Charlton left The Valley sorely disappointed at not having avenged a 4-1 drubbing in Yorkshire in November.

Reduced to 10 men after Richard Rufus's debatable dismissal in the 66th minute, they maintained such dominance that Leeds supporters behind the goal their team were supposed to be attacking howled plaintively, but vainly: "Attack, attack, attack". O'Leary's men have been doing just that, with admirable gusto, since he took charge of them a month before the previous Charl-

ton game. Now their legs have gone and a Champions' League place is disappearing off into the distance.

David Hopkin and Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink, the captain and leading scorer respectively, pulled up lame in the first half an hour on Saturday and there were no fresh faces, or legs, to compensate. "The youngsters are tired," O'Leary said. "I've got the basis of a wonderful young team here, but when you look at the three teams ahead of us, their strength is quality in depth. The bonus today was that we got a point, because we were fortunate."

He was right there. Most of the quality came from Charlton, who responded to their manager's criticism of last week's performance at Middlesbrough with a more character-

istic display of heart and endeavour, and also a well-judged balance of passing football and longer stuff. The opening goal, from Mark Kinsella's pass, through Chris Powell's diagonal cross, knocked down by Andy Hunt and driven smartly in by Graham Stuart, combined the two.

Hesitancy in front of the third-choice goalkeeper Andy Petterson five minutes later allowed Jonathon Woodgate an equaliser, and Paul Mortimer, slipping slightly as he ran up to take a second-half penalty, passed up two invaluable points.

Mortimer, if he is given another chance ahead of John Barnes, will have the opportunity of making amends at home to Tottenham tomorrow in what is effectively Charlton's game in hand on most of their

rivals in distress. Only a heavy defeat would drop them into the bottom three again before Saturday's trip to Everton, after which a home match with Blackburn looms dauntingly large for both sides.

But, one match at a time, as Alan Curbishley would doubtless insist. "If they give that level of performance and work as hard as that, we're in with a shout," he observed.

Goals: Stuart (20) 1-0; Woodgate (25) 1-1; Charlton (4-4-2): Petterson; Mills, Rufus, Tyler, Powell, Stuart; Kinsella, K. Jones, Mortimer (Barnes, 69); Hunt, Pringle (Bright, 60). Substitutes not used: Salmon (84); Brown, Barnes, Leeds (4-4-2): Murray; Woodgate, Werners, Radebe, Harte, Bowyer, Barry, Kewell, Hodgkin (Hailand, 74); Hasselbaink (M. Jones, 31). Subst. Substitutes not used: Robinson (84).

Referee: A. White (Co. Durham). Bookings: Charlton: Bowyer, Hunt, Barry, Woodgate, Smith. Sending off: Charlton: Rufus.

Man of the match: Kinsella.

Attendance: 20,043.

# Smith remains calm despite the pressure

BY SIMON TURNBULL

Newcastle United	1
Everton	3

WALTER SMITH was struggling to make himself heard. Alarm bells were ringing all around him. It was not exactly a novel experience for a manager of Everton Football Club, as Smith has discovered since he swapped his trophy hunter's job in Govan for the Goodison life.

It was unusual, though, to see a boss of the boys in blue unfustered by an audible signal of distress.

Smith talked on and on, and with hope in his heart, amid the clanging din in the Newcastle press room. It proved to be a false alarm. The only fire at St James' Park on Saturday was in the bellies of Smith's players.

If they keep the flame burning, the latest alarm about Everton's first-class status may prove to be a false one too. They might even earn the luxury of a final day fixture with nothing but pride at stake, for them at least.

Davy Jones is sure to have more in his South Coast locker on 16 May than Raul Gullit did on Saturday. His players, having paraded in their Wembley kit on Thursday, embarked on their FA Cup final preparations in the emperor's new clothes.

Their shortcomings were evident from the moment the team sheet arrived. Duncan Ferguson, despite his impressive return at Old Trafford the previous Sunday, was deemed unfit for action.

Being accustomed to wearing his heart on his sleeve, and still possessing an Everton tattoo on his left forearm, it was probably just as well that the Gladys Street icon did not appear in black and white. It was just as well, too, for Everton that naked ambition was difficult to detect among Ferguson's new colleagues.

That much was clear after 42 seconds, the time it took Everton to find the back of the Newcastle net. David Beahar's hesitation allowed Kevin Campbell to shoot his first goal, though the 19-year-old debutant was not the only one caught napping. Scot Gemmill and Don Hutchison having been granted the midfield space and time they needed to contrive the opening.

Campbell profited from similar laxity two minutes before the break, turning in Francis Jeffers' low ball from the right thanks to Shay Given's slow motion dive. On loan to

Everton from Trabzonspor, Campbell now jointly tops their Premiership scoring chart for the season, joining Ibrahim Bakayoko, Danny Cadamateri and Ferguson on four goals.

At the other end, Thomas Myhre had been Everton's saviour in the 32nd minute when David Weir was penalised for handball and the Norwegian dived to keep out Alan Shearer's spot kick. Ultimately, however, the Toffees could afford to come temporarily unstuck eight minutes from time. Shearer beating Myhre from the spot after David Unsworth was punished for tugging the shirt of the Newcastle captain.

They finished as they had started. Gemmill lashing a 20-yard volley past Given. It sealed Everton's first win on Tyneside since Boxing Day 1986 when the team that Howard Kendall built went on to win their second title in three seasons.

The seasonal target this time is more modest. "If we win our two home games we should be safe," Smith said.

Goals: Campbell (11) 0-1; Campbell (43) 0-2; Shearer (pen 82) 1-2; Gemmill (88) 1-3.

Newcastle United (4-3-1-2): Given; Griffin, Beahar, Hughes, Barron; Lee, Harman, Speed; Muric (Saha, 55); Shearer. Kesteven (Solomon, 75). Substitutes not used: Pearce, Anderson, Harper (84).

Everton (3-5-2): Myhre; Short, Watson, Unsworth, Weir, Hutchinson, Dacourt, Gemmill, Ball, Campbell (Bakayoko, 62); Jeffers (Cadamateri, 62). Substitutes not used: Ward, Degen, Gerrard (84).

Referee: G. Poll (Tring). Bookings: Newcastle: Lee, Everton: Short, Gemmill.

Man of the match: Myhre.

Attendance: 36,775.

# Strachan's folly of keeping his keeper

BY PHIL SHAW

Coventry City	1
Middlesbrough	2

SOME OF the ingredients, including the scoreline, were uncannily similar to those at the FA Cup replay at nearby Villa Park 72 hours earlier. But while Highfield Road witnessed a player scoring after running at a retreating defence from his own half, plus an injured goalkeeper soldiering on, the post-match debate centred on judgement and handicaps rather than genius and heroism.

Gordon Strachan is justifiably revered in Coventry for the passion he brings to the task of managing a club whose image beyond the city boundaries is largely negative. However, the sight of the wounded Magnus Hedman tottering round his six-yard box, and the Sky Blues doing likewise above the relegation zone, led many of the Scot's bewildered devotees to remonstrate with him.

In normal circumstances, Steve Grogzovic would probably have been summoned from the bench, ready and eager to reclaim his place, after Hedman suffered a debilitating hip injury with less than three minutes played. So's Law dictated that the 41-year-old goalkeeper could only watch from the back row as Middlesbrough belatedly took advantage of Strachan's decision to leave the Swedish international on

A neck problem requiring surgery will keep Grogzovic out until October, which had always meant that Strachan would be short of experienced cover if anything befell his first choice. It was Coventry's bad luck that Hedman's collision with Gary Pallister happened so early, but their manager's handling of the situation left many observers pondering the fine line between misfortune and miscalculation.

Among his substitutes was Chris Kirkland, keeper to the side who have reached the FA Youth Cup semi-finals. Midway through the first half, when Hedman appeared to signal that he could not continue, the 17-year-old began warming up in earnest. The call never came, despite Hedman's transparent discomfort and immobility, raising the question as to why Kirkland was there if Strachan was not prepared to use him.

The fans, seeing that Hedman was unable to throw or kick without creaking up in pain, screamed for Strachan to act. Boro's inability to exploit his incapacity gave them

hope that Coventry might hold out and perhaps score themselves. But when Vladimir Kinder was allowed to run 50 yards and shoot past a statuesque Hedman from 22 yards, albeit more tamely than Ryan Giggs last Wednesday, the gamble finally backfired.

Gary McAllister's well-worked equaliser, due reward for his tireless prompting, appeared to have given Coventry a valuable nudge towards safety before Dean Gordon's winner eight minutes from time. While the wing-back's angled volley was vicious enough to have beaten Hedman at his fittest, the fact was that he was again rooted to the spot.

Strachan's volatile nature and articulate manner are often a refreshing change from the stock repertoires of his profession, but his reaction to the clamour from the stands did him little credit. "What do the crowd know about it?" he snapped, claiming that Hedman had volunteered to play on and was merely "wrong-footed" for Boro's first. Besides, he argued, if Coventry had taken their chances, the keeper would have been felled like Peter Schmeichel.

Much as the paying customer does not have an insider's grasp of the nuances, the evidence before them here was as plain as it was



A typically animated Gordon Strachan, the Coventry manager, directing operations on Saturday

Mark Thompson/Allsport

damning. Strachan rightly condemned the Scots who booed McAllister recently, yet it would be arrogant to deduce that the public are invariably wrong. Intriguingly, the issue was sufficiently sensitive for the Coventry players, including the usually communicative Hedman, to refuse to comment.

This setback may be the wake-up call Coventry needed, having seemingly thought that 37 points had all but secured an extension on their 32-year tenure at the top level. Boro, set for a commendably high finish after promotion last May, could not claim to have been the better side. Nevertheless, when

Strachan cited Mark Schwarzer's excellence as evidence of his own team's ascendancy, he simply highlighted the importance of being able to count on a certain measure of agility between the posts.

Goals: Kinder (64) 0-1; McAllister (75) 1-1; Gordon (82) 1-2.

Coventry City (4-4-2): Hedman; Breen (Clement, 89); Shaw, Williams, Burrows; Whelan, Solovet, McAllister; Boring, Alopi, Huchey. Substitutes not used: Konic, P. Hall, M. Hall, Kirkland (84).

Middlesbrough (3-5-2): Schwarzer; Vickers, Pallister (Kinder, 17); Marlowe, 90; Cooper, Bahr, Maddison, Townsend, O'Neill, Gordon; Reid (Armstrong, 62); Deane. Substitutes not used: Summerville, Beardsford (84).

Referee: P. Jones (Loughborough). Bookings: Coventry: Breen. Middlesbrough: O'Neill, Kinder.

Man of the match: Cooper.

Attendance: 19,231.

## TODAY'S NUMBER

8

The number of footballers sent off playing for St Aidan's against St Benedildus in the Irish Permanent Metropolitan Under-17 League on Friday. The referee was forced to abandon the match.



# Rogers' late goal silences the majority

IT WAS as close to a golden goal as can be scored inside regulation time. Paul Rogers, who starred in Sutton United's FA Cup victory over Coventry 10 years ago, left it until the third minute of stoppage time before drilling in the decisive strike that enabled Wigan Athletic, this competition's first winners at Wembley, in 1985, to send Millwall, with their massive majority, home with losers' medals.

A month after Tottenham overcame Leicester in added time of the Worthington Cup final, Wigan, in their new golden away kit, pre-empted their impending move to the £25m, 25,000-capacity JJB Stadium with a morale-boosting Wembley triumph in the competition cynics tend to label the Mickey Mouse Cup.

Ray Mathias's team will now hope this victory inspires them in a demanding Second Division finale in which they start nine points behind the play-off zone but have three games in hand. "I was delighted to see that shot go in," the Wigan manager said. "It was very hard work for us - Millwall made it very hard work. But the champagne's on ice. The players have got to be good boys tonight and go straight home." And then to Northampton on Tuesday.

Keith Stevens, who has done such a good job in his first year since stepping up from Millwall playing legend to manager, said: "It wasn't great football

BY LINDSAY HARRISON  
at Wembley

Millwall	0
Wigan Athletic	1

but we worked our socks off. It was just a horrible time to concede a goal.

"It's good for the club to have nearly 50,000 supporters coming to Wembley and I thought they were a credit to it because they conducted themselves well; they were in good voice and good humour."

Millwall are left to ruminate on a promising season. Their young side - five of whom progressed from the youth ranks, while 18-goal Neil Harris has enjoyed a fine bedding-in period following his signing last year from the Dr Martens League side Cambridge City - have indicated they may be ready for a promotion challenge next time around.

Wigan, who visited Wembley for the 1973 FA Trophy final, losing to Scarborough, were not relishing the prospect of two hours in the sun, though 90 minutes of fame does not go amiss ahead of their difficult end-of-season agenda.

The first half was a wash-out, the teams cancelling each other out and showing greater fear of failure than will to win. The second half, thankfully, became a more hot-blooded affair. Simon Haworth swivelled to shoot just over for Wigan; Harris nicked the ball away from Pat McGibbin and succeeding in toe-end-

ing the ball underneath Roy Carroll's despairing dive at the other end. But Colin Greenall appeared to save Wigan, clearing the ball off the line.

As the final 10 minutes began there was a loud penalty shout at each end. Firstly Andy Liddell, Wigan's former Barnsley midfielder, was muscled down to the ground by Steven Reid. No whistle. Then, as if to level matters out, Clive Wilkes again kept his pea dry when Harris, having skilfully weaved his way past one challenge, appeared to be fouled by Greenall.

Liddell had his luck when he appeared to control Carl Bradshaw's pass up the right wing with his hand before crossing from the right hand edge of the penalty area. Stuart Nethercott headed out but only as far as Rogers, who muscled aside Tim Cahill before driving home the most memorable goal of his career, and only his second since signing for £50,000 from Notts County two years ago. "It was a great time to score," said the 34-year-old midfielder. "I didn't really fancy extra-time." He just made sure he got a golden goal in first.

Goal: Rogers (30).  
Millwall: Roberts; Lavin, Nethercott; Dolan, Stuart; Hill, Cahill, Newman, Reid; Harris, Sadler. Substitutes not used: Shaw, Bower, Bricham.  
Wigan Athletic: Carroll, Bradshaw, McGibbin, Greenall, Balmer, Sharp, Rogers, O'Neill, Liddell, Haworth, Barlow (Lee, 89). Substitutes not used: Jones, Green.  
Referee: C. Wilkes (Gloucestershire).  
Bookings: Millwall: Newman, Lavin, McGibbin, Bradshaw, O'Neill.  
Man of the match: Rogers.  
Attendance: 55,349.



Wigan's Kevin Sharp hampers Millwall's Paul Hill at Wembley yesterday. Allsport

# Corica back in the hunt for Wolves

STEVE CORICA has been more accustomed to medical than scoring charts over the past two years, after suffering from two cruciate ligament injuries to his knees, but that just made his well-struck and decisive 13th-minute goal all the sweeter. It had been a long wait - two-and-a-half years to be precise - since the Australian international midfielder's last goal and, unsurprisingly, he called it "my most important for Wolves so far."

Corica's goal and appearance in this Midlands derby was proof that some good can always come out of bad, the bad bit being Wolves' goalless draw with Crystal Palace last week, where David Connolly paid the price for an inept performance and was replaced for this game by the Australian.

Playing off and behind Haavard Flo - "that position gives me more room", said Corica - he was in the right place as Neil Embilen cut in from the right flank and passed to him. His low, first-time shot from the edge of the box belied the fact he had been off the scoresheet for so long, although there was evidence of ring-rust 16 minutes later as he spurned a far easier chance when unmarked.

After that miss, which turned out to be Wolves' last attempt on goal, the visitors battered down the hatches and dealt comfortably with whatever Birmingham had to throw at them.

The Wolves' manager, Colin Lee, was certainly delighted at the team's defence, which has now conceded only three goals in their last nine games, as they extended their unbeaten run to 10 matches and

BY CONRAD LEACH

Birmingham City	0
Wolverhampton Wanderers	1

maintained their grip on the last play-off place.

The back four swallowed up and blocked everything thrown at it, including a goal line clearance by Michael Gilles from Michael Johnson's 24th minute header, and now the Birmingham manager Trevor Francis is seeing his team suffer from play-off jitters at precisely the wrong time. Although their position in the top six seems assured, this was their second defeat in three games, both at St Andrew's, which until recently was something of a fortress in the First Division.

Francis, whose team were booed off at the end, called on his supporters to get behind his players for the rest of the season. He said: "Hopefully the fans will stick with us. We need their help." He also needs the help of his strikers. Peter Ndlovu was anonymous, Dele Adebola was off the pace, and only Lee Bradbury, late on, caused any trouble, forcing Stowell, who created a Wolves' rust 16 minutes later as he spurned a far easier chance when unmarked.

Sounding more desperate than assured, Francis said: "This time next week, after our next two games, it could be different."

Goal: Corica (13).  
Birmingham: (4-4-2): Stowell, Johnson (Robinson, 65), Roberts, Granger; Hyde (Wanless, 82), Connor, McCarthy, Hughes, Adebola, Ndlovu (Bradbury, 65).  
Wolverhampton Wanderers: (4-4-1-1): Stowell, Roberts, Curie, Muscat, Gilles, Sedgley, Robinson, Embilen, Simpson, Corica; Flo (Ball, 66). Substitutes not used: Adams, Naylor.  
Referee: B. Knight (Oxfordshire). Bookings: Birmingham: Robinson, Granger, Hughes; Wolverhampton: Sedgley, Curie.  
Man of the match: Corica.  
Attendance: 26,143.

# Scarborough get that sinking feeling

COLIN ADDISON still thinks he can save Scarborough from themselves and excommunication from the Nationwide League. And Peter Beardsley would dearly love to be 17 again.

The difference is that, in the moments that matter, the 38-year-old Beardsley can still do a passable impression of the player he once was.

Scarborough, on the other hand, with only 12 years of League history to fall back on, continue to perpetuate a depressingly recurring horizontal theme. Having stumbled their way to the bottom of the Third Division 14 weeks ago they remain seriously disadvantaged, having finished a very poor second in the battle of the Nationwide League's most endangered species.

However, in the best traditions of crisis management,

BY DAVID CLOUGH

Hartlepool United	3
Scarborough	0

Addison argues that despite being three points adrift of the new 'second-bottom' club, Carlisle, there remains scope to secure a safety certificate. "We are just making bloody hard work of it, that's all," he said.

If only this eternal optimist could have believed the message proclaimed from the giant billboard attached to the perimeter wall of Hartlepool's Victoria Park: "Two great teams working together". Sadly, the small print revealed that the two in tandem are the home club's community department and the local technical college.

With Beardsley at his disposal, the recently recruited Scarborough manager might

have been able to put meat on the bones of his survival claim.

Beardsley, playing out time while looking for a coaching opening, created, with two quite special free-kicks, Chris Freestone's first-half goals.

It mattered little that from this point on Beardsley resigned himself to watching the ball sail to and fro over his head. From his point of view it was mission accomplished long before Paul Baker's stoppage-time goal hauled Hartlepool five points clear of the bottom.

The former England man does admit it is a lot harder, though, playing at this level. Beardsley said: "You touch the ball once and you might not see it again for 10 minutes because it is up there, sailing back and forwards."

Yet while Beardsley was looking skywards, Scarborough

players like their captain, Jamie Hoyland, were looking down and feeling down. Hoyland, 33, was booked for pointing out to referee Alan Wiley that the free-kick decision which gave Freestone the first of his goals was the sort which could cost footballers their jobs.

Hoyland, who began his career at Manchester City 16 years ago, still has 15 months of his contract to run but wonders aloud whether that agreement will be worth the paper it is written on if Scarborough goes the way of Doncaster, now languishing in the Conference.

Hoyland said: "I have been relegated twice before with Sheffield United and Burnley but, apart from the embarrassment of it all, it would be devastating if it happened again."

"I had always planned to play in the Football League

until I was 35, but suddenly a trap-door is opening up."

"The frightening part is that I haven't a clue what I would do if we did go out of the League."

Contrasting survival for Hartlepool would be a feather in the cap of their new manager Chris Turner, who is even hinting at promotion next time round.

Funny how objectives can change. This time last year Scarborough were involved in the promotion play-offs.

Goals: Freestone (26), 40. Freestone (41), 2-0. Baker (pen 30) 3-0.  
Hartlepool United (3-5-2): Holland; Ingram, Barron, Strodger, Knowles, Hughes, Miller, Beardsley, Clark (D. Lella, 52), Freestone, Jones (Baker, 84). Substitutes not used: Dibbitt (64).  
Scarborough (3-5-2): Park, McNaughton, Hoyland, McKeown, Carr (Russell, 45), Brodie, Bullimore, Worral, Ashmore (Saville, 50). Tate, Roberts (Robinson, 45).  
Referee: A. Wiley (Staffordshire). Bookings: Hartlepool: Strodger, Miller, Delle. Scarborough: Carr, Hoyland, Worral.  
Man of the match: Beardsley.  
Attendance: 5,098.

# Ronaldo's old colleague revives Bolton hopes

BY RICHARD SLATER

Bolton Wanderers	2
Ipswich Town	0

"We hit a brick wall for some time, but the only way to deal with that was to stick to our principles," he said.

"That's starting to pay dividends after a frustrating period and we showed great shape and discipline against Ipswich, still favourites to join Sunderland in the automatic promotion place, that the gloom which has shrouded the Reebok Stadium for much of 1998 is lifting."

The introduction of Derek Fazackerly this week to the coaching staff appears to have galvanised the Trotters and a pair of clean sheets since his arrival is no mean return for a team which has by far the worse defensive record of those looking for the big move upstairs.

Consider also that Bolton have yet to lose in the league to any of those in the play-off zone and you can begin to understand why Colin Todd appears so collected.

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added. "I took a chance when I bought him last summer, he'd been out of the game for two years. But he's very talented and scored a great goal for us - I know there was more to come and I'm glad I've got him."

While they often provided the prettier play, and hit the woodwork twice through David Johnson, Ipswich lacked a little luck and some of the urgency of Bolton's play. There is no questioning their ability, though, nor their will to succeed.

"Perhaps we over-played a little and they hit us on the break," said their manager, George Burley. "But Bolton were my favourites to go up and it's a credit to us that we're still above them. That makes me confident we'll get second position."

Goals: Taylor (37) 1-0; Gudjohnsen (69) 2-0.  
Bolton Wanderers (4-4-2): Banks; Cox, Bergerson, Fish (Marmust, 71), Phillips, Jordan, Jensen, Fransen, Gardner, Gudjohnsen (Hansen, 90). Taylor. Substitutes not used: Fullarton.  
Ipswich Town (3-5-2): Wright, Stockwell (Naylor, 73), Trevis, Alphonso, Venus, Campbell, Land, Knighton, Potts (Dyer, 46). Scowcroft, Johnson. Substitutes not used: Curry.  
Referee: K. Lynch (Kent/Hampshire). Man of the match: Gudjohnsen.  
Attendance: 19,894.

# Vialli's support for Rix

GIANLUCA VIALLI, the Chelsea manager, has given his public support to the club's decision to stand by their coach, Graham Rix.

Rix was imprisoned for unlawful sex with a 15-year-old girl. Chelsea immediately announced that he would be given his job back when he is released in about six months' time.

"I love Graham Rix," Vialli said before yesterday's game against Leicester City. "He has been punished for something which he has done and, when that finishes, there is no reason why he should be punished again. When he comes back, he will be made welcome - especially by me."

Vialli explained his recent low profile, saying: "Sometimes you need a break because it is not only football questions which are asked. People ask about Graham Rix and Dennis Wise."

Chelsea's chairman, Ken Bates, says he has received numerous letters from fans who back his decision to stand by Rix by a ratio of six to one.

Aston Villa say they will stand by their former England international, Paul Merson, following the reformed alcoholic's admission that he went on a drinking binge a fortnight ago.

"Whatever the problems Paul Merson may have, the club will support him 100 per cent," Villa's company secretary, Steve Stride, said yesterday.

# Milan maintain the pressure on Lazio

ZVONIMIR BOBAN and Oliver Bierhoff both scored twice as Milan won 5-1 at Udinese yesterday to close to within a point of the Italian Serie A leaders, Lazio.

With five matches remaining, the title race is wide open again with Lazio, beaten 3-1 at home to Juventus on Saturday, letting slip a seven-point advantage over Milan within eight days.

Milan's margin of victory against a side which had not lost at home since December suggests the momentum in the championship run-in is shifting away from Lazio, who have taken just one point out of three successive home matches. "I knew that we would have to suffer until (the last day) and now everyone knows it. But it's not over yet," said Lazio's

EUROPEAN ROUND-UP

BY CHRIS ENDEAN

coach, Sven-Goran Eriksson, after his side's second successive defeat.

George Weah scored the final goal for Milan, after Boban and Bierhoff had netted two apiece, while Marco Amoroso hit Udinese's consolation goal.

On Saturday Juventus gained revenge for two successive defeats to Lazio in Turin, despite a shaky start with Christian Vieri hitting the post in the second minute and having a 21st-minute effort disallowed.

The match turned on the failure of Luca Marchegiani, the Lazio goalkeeper, to stop a harmless-looking first-half shot

from Thierry Henry. Nicola Amoruso put the visitors 2-0 ahead before the break, the substitute Roberto Mancini pulled one back early in the second period, but Henry's second goal finished off Lazio.

Yesterday Ronaldo converted a first-half penalty for Internazionale a minute after his team-mate, Gianluca Pagnani, had saved Marco Negri's spot-kick - but Inter were still held 1-1 at San Siro by struggling Vicenza. Massimo Berruto equalised for the visitors.

In Spain, the Dutchmen Frank de Boer and Patrick Kluivert were the scorers for the runaway leaders, Barcelona, in their 2-1 win over Real Mallorca on Saturday. Mallorca, who meet Chelsea on Thursday in the European Cup Winners' Cup semi-final second



Kirsten: Hat-trick man

leg, pulled a goal back with a late Leo Biagini penalty.

A hat-trick from the German international striker Uli Kirsten helped Bayer Leverkusen hammer Borussia Monchengladbach 4-1 in the German Bundesliga on Saturday.

Leverkusen look sure to qualify for the Champions' League by finishing in second place behind the clear leaders, Bayern Munich, who beat Eintracht Frankfurt 3-1 on Friday.

# Nigeria removed by Mali

THE HOSTS, Nigeria, were knocked out of the World Youth Championship when they were surprisingly beaten 3-1 by Mali in the quarter-finals yesterday.

Mali, who were making only their second appearance in the tournament's history, went ahead in the first minute after Mamadou Bagayoko struck after a goalmouth scramble.

Garba Hashimu equalised for the hosts in the 16th minute, but the Nigerians fell behind again a minute before half time when Mamadou Diarra scored with a shot from close range.

Mali, situated in sub-Saharan west Africa, is not noted for their

footballing prowess, but yesterday they were unquestionably the stronger side. In the 62nd minute, Bagayoko confirmed Mali's superiority with his second goal, a powerful shot from outside the penalty area.

They will be joined in the semi-finals by Uruguay, who defeated the three-times champions Brazil 3-1 in their quarter-final yesterday thanks to a late and controversial penalty. The spot-kick was awarded when Oscar Pellegri theatrically fell over following a challenge by a Brazilian defender in the 86th minute.

Brazil protested vehemently before Nestor Canobbio converted the kick to send Uruguay into the semi-finals.

Yet Brazil dominated the first half and seemed set for an emphatic win when Fernando Baiano put them ahead in the 27th minute after a delightful one-two with Edu.

However, the Brazilians missed several chances and were jolted out of their stride when Jorge Anchen equalised two minutes before half-time, cutting inside and firing an unstoppable shot past goalkeeper Fabio. Both teams then hit the post in the second half before Uruguay's late winner.

# Celtic pick up the pace at the top as Larsson collects players' award

JUST A few weeks ago Rangers were 10 points clear at the top of the Scottish Premier League, with most observers having written off any hope of Celtic retaining their title. Last night, however, the gap between the Glasgow rivals stood at just four points after the Ibrox side were held to a draw by Dundee.

Rangers gave a debut to Claudio Reyna, their American international signed for £1.2m from Wolfsburg, and made most of the early running, but it was the home side, playing at

SCOTTISH ROUND-UP

BY PHIL GORDON

Tannadice Park while their own Dens Park ground is rebuilt, who took the lead against the run of play.

It was Steven Boyack, who was sold to Dundee for £25,000 earlier in the season by Rangers, who made his former club pay. He created time and space for himself on the right before floating a precise cross for Iain Anderson, whose free

header defeated Stefan Klos in the Rangers goal.

Dundee went in ahead at half time, but the scoreline was no reflection of Rangers' domination and it took them just four minutes of the second half to draw level. A Jorg Albertz corner from the left found the defender Tony Vidmar, whose header found its way through a crowd of players and into the net.

Wallace then fired wide and Van Bronckhorst had an effort well saved by Robert Douglas in the Dundee goal. But

Rangers simply could not apply the finishing touch their pressure merited, and James Grady could even have snatched a winner for the home side.

Henrik Larsson of Celtic rounded off an eventful weekend by collecting the Scottish Players' Player of the Year award at a ceremony in Glasgow last night. On Saturday Larsson scored his 38th goal of the season, a second-half penalty, which was the only goal in side's defeat of Motherwell.

But victory was secured at a price for Larsson, who went to

hospital after the match for an X-ray on a suspected broken rib.

The Swede, who on Tuesday signed a new four-year contract said to be worth £1.3m a year, was the target for some heavy treatment by Motherwell during the game.

Six of their players were booked whilst Larsson was involved in an incident in the 38th minute when he appeared to stamp on Michel Doesburg, leaving the Motherwell player unable to continue.

Elsewhere, third-placed Kilmarnock continued their push

for a Uefa Cup place by winning 6-0 at bottom-placed Dumbarton. John Henry began the rout in the 26th minute, before three goals in just 13 minutes after the break killed Dumbarton off.

"I must be the most embarrassed manager in Scotland. I never thought anyone could score that many against us but Kilmarnock ripped us apart," the Dumbarton manager, Dick Campbell, said.

The third-bottom club Dundee United eased their relegation worries by winning 4-0

at Aberdeen while fourth-placed St Johnstone drew 0-0 at home to Hearts. Hearts move two points clear of Dumbarton at the bottom of the standings on 29 points.

Colin Hendry, who failed to make Rangers' starting line-up yesterday, will be formally restored as Scotland's captain when Craig Brown names his squad today to meet Germany in Bremen. The friendly on 28 April will see the Scots led by the Rangers defender following Gary McAllister's retirement from international football.

## CHRIS MAYNOR











## SPORT

London Marathon: Moroccan leaves challengers behind while Chepchumba earns \$125,000 bonus

## El Mouaziz upsets elite field

BY MIKE ROWBOTTOM

DID ABDEL Kader El Mouaziz win yesterday's Flora London Marathon, or did arguably the strongest men's field ever assembled lose it? The question was an academic one for the 30-year-old Moroccan, who picked up the \$55,000 (£34,000) first prize in a personal best of 2hr 7min 57sec after running alone over the final 10 miles.

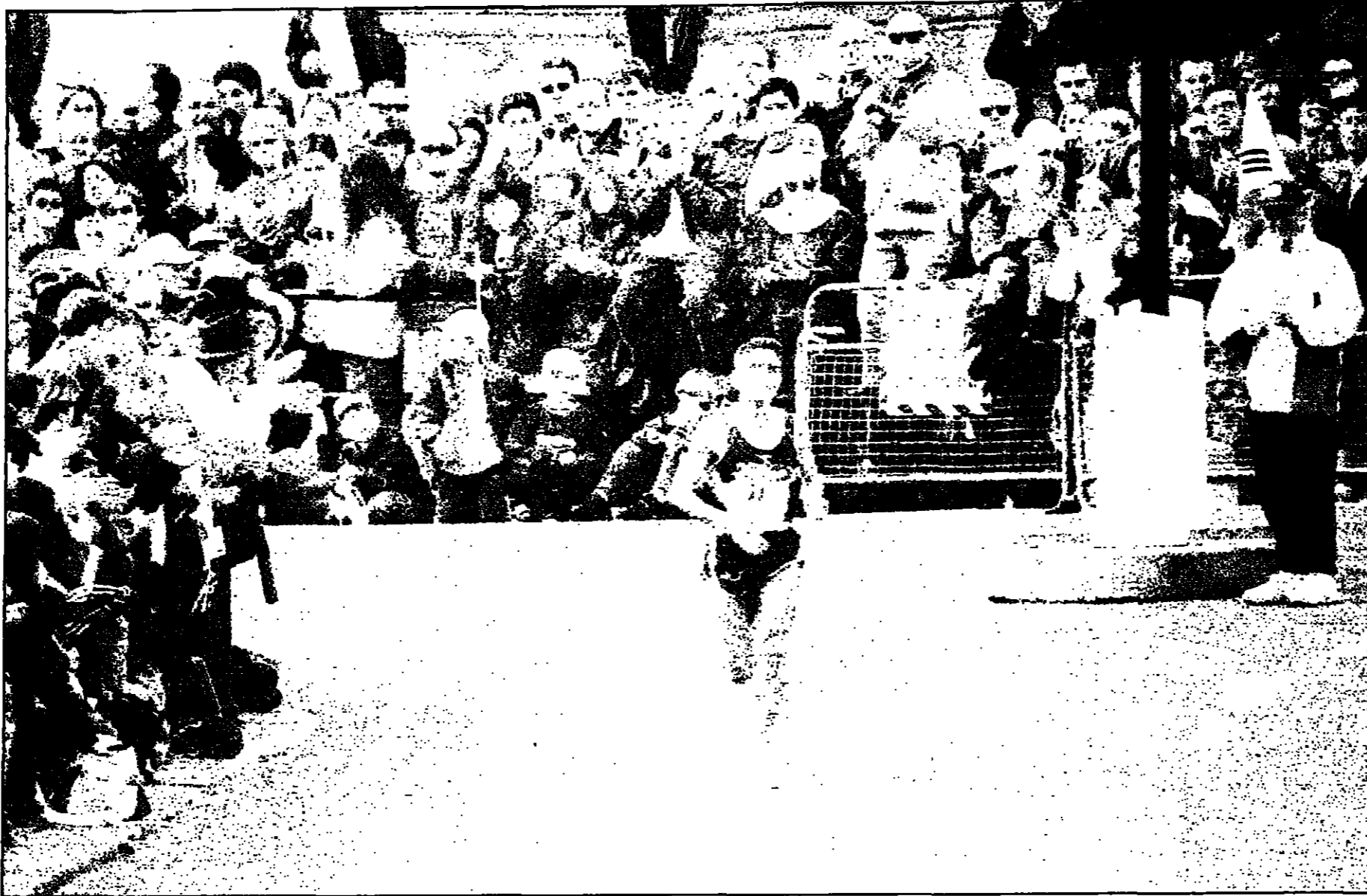
But the organisers, who spent the best part of \$2m on bringing together the Olympic champion Josiah Thugwane, the world and defending champion Abel Antón, the world's fastest marathoner, Ronaldo Da Costa and the double London winner, Antonio Pinto, could have been forgiven an air of bemusement after a race which, effectively, never happened.

Unaware of the extent of El Mouaziz's lead, the chasing group were ultimately confounded by their own caution. With three miles remaining, Pinto broke away in a desperate attempt to bridge the gap, but it was too late. El Mouaziz, who a year earlier had been caught by Antón in the final 600 yards having broken away after 20 miles, had enough in reserve this time, despite his haggard appearance and backward glances in the final stages.

Timing also proved crucial for the women's winner, Joyce Chepchumba of Kenya, who picked up an extra \$125,000 for a world's best by a margin of just two seconds with her time of 2:23:22.

Unusually for a world best, it was not even the fastest time of the day. That belonged to Chepchumba's training partner and compatriot, Tegla Loroupe, who won yesterday's Rotterdam Marathon in 2:22:48. From this year however, the London organisers are offering their world's best bonus solely to times recorded in women only races. Accordingly, Chepchumba had to better the time that stood 12th on the all time list to earn her extra cash, the 2:23:24 recorded in Osaka last year by Lidia Simon, of Romania.

It was a costly point of principle for London - but the Marathon's chief executive, Nick Bittel, insisted that his event was not alone in believing that records set by women in mixed races should not be recognised. There was a widespread feeling that the spirit of the event had been infringed by Loroupe's world best of 2:20:47 at last year's Rotterdam Marathon, where she was



Abdel Kader El Mouaziz of Morocco takes advantage of his rivals' cautious tactics as he heads for victory in yesterday's London Marathon David Ashdown

paced all the way by male runners who also handed her drinks. It moved the race director of the Chicago Marathon to describe Rotterdam as an event rather than a race.

A proposal by UK Athletics that there should be a minimum of half an hour's gap between the start of men's and women's marathon races has been accepted by the International Amateur Athletic Federation's road-running and cross-country committee, and will be considered by the full IAAF Council in Seville this August.

Although she complained of a stomach upset during the middle of

the race, Chepchumba - the pre-race favourite - was always in a position to challenge for a second title to add to the one she had won by the margin of one second from Liz McColgan two years earlier. Established in the leading group of five alongside Elana Meyer, Nicole Carroll, Manuela Machado and Adriana Fernandez, she was the only one to respond to Fernandez's break for home with six miles left, passing her before the 22-mile mark.

Chepchumba, who lives with her husband and son in Kenya but has a German training base, earned a total of \$230,000 for her performance, the richest day's pickings by

a woman marathon runner. She said that part of her money would go to her family, part to some younger runners, and part to herself. "Maybe I will buy a dress," she said with a broad smile. It could be some dress. Asked if she regarded her run as intrinsically superior to Loroupe's, Chepchumba replied: "Yes, I think today was better because we women ran alone."

El Mouaziz believed he had earned his victory by gambling at an earlier stage than he had the previous year. "I am a specialist marathon runner," said the man who has won the Marrakesh event three times. "I knew I had to build up a lead because

track runners, like Anton Pinto, could out-sprint me in a finish."

Pinto, whose course record of 2:07:55, survived by two seconds, was angry with himself for misjudging the race. "We had no information about how big a lead El Mouaziz had," he said. "There were so many strong athletes in the group that no one wanted to risk making a move by themselves. El Mouaziz didn't win the race, the group lost it."

There was some satisfaction, however, for Britain's Jon Brown, who finished fourth in a personal best of 2:09:44. It may be enough to persuade him to run next year's Olympic Marathon.

## LONDON MARATHON RESULTS

<b>MEN'S RACE (GB or Irl unless stated):</b> 1 El Mouaziz (Mor) 2hr 7min 57sec; 2 A Pinto (Por) 2:09:00; 3 A Antón (Sp) 2:09:41; 4 J Brown 2:09:44; 5 J Kiprono (Ken) 2:09:45; 6 G Leone (It) 2:10:03; 7 A Juzado (Sp) 2:10:03; 8 D Castro (Por) 2:10:24; 9 S Muthurazanne (SA) 2:10:56; 10 Y Yamamoto (Japan) 2:11:13; 11 L Troop (Aus) 2:11:21; 12 Lee Songha (Kor) 2:12:11; 13 T Getenselste (Eth) 2:13:13; 14 A Szalkai (Swe) 2:13:19; 15 G Ruggerio (It) 2:13:31; 16 T Negere (Eth) 2:13:40; 17 R Da Costa (Bra) 2:14:10; 18 P Reidmond (Fr) 2:14:21; 19 B Parades (Mex) 2:14:31; 20 P Arco (Sp) 2:14:41; 21 Ales 2:22:00; 22 M Hudspeth 2:15:11; 23 J Hudspeth 2:15:47; 24 E Martin 2:17:22; 25 D Buzza 2:17:39; 26 J O'Brien 2:20:20; 27 P Williams 2:20:23; 28 D Bilton 2:21:34; 29 A Shepherd 2:22:15; 30 D Rathbone 2:22:29; 31 D Cawert 2:22:49; 32 A R Adams 2:22:49; 33 P Pochlignath 2:22:58; 34 M Lemayon 2:23:10; 35 D Grover 2:23:12; 36 D O'Keefe 2:24:18.	<b>WOMEN'S RACE (GB or Irl unless stated):</b> 1 J Chepchumba (Ken) 2:23:22; 2 A Fernandez (Mex) 2:24:06; 3 M Machado (Por) 2:25:09; 4 N Carroll (Aus) 2:25:52; 5 E Meyer (SA) 2:27:18; 6 T Terachi (Japan) 2:28:31; 7 K McCann (Aus) 2:28:44; 8 A Kanana (Ken) 2:29:47; 9 V De Oliveira (Bra) 2:32:17; 10 L Guadalupe (Mex) 2:36:42; 11 R Rios (Sp) 2:37:45; 12 H Kaizawa (Japan) 2:42:20; 13 M Moon (NZ) 2:43:26; 14 N Scales 2:44:28; 15 J Lodge 2:45:46; 16 W Llewellyn (NZ) 2:48:02; 17 J Newton 2:48:22; 18 K Wood 2:50:43; 19 S Dixon 2:50:45; 20 S Eastal 2:51:51; 21 Ales 2:53:55; 22 G O'Connor 2:54:19; 24 E Robinson 2:54:55; 25 S Mussey 2:55:03; 26 S Cooney 2:55:51; 27 L Jones 2:56:22; 28 J Marchant 2:58:25; 29 J Hoskin 2:58:30; 30 L Golding-Fellham 2:58:59; 31 L Goughley 2:57:39; 32 C McKinlay-Evans 2:58:15; 33 A Brown 2:58:28; 34 P Arfleck 2:58:40; 35 J Sleimidine 2:58:46.
<b>MEN'S WHEELCHAIR RACE (GB or Irl unless stated):</b> 1 H Fri (Swe) 1:35:27; 2 J Jeanot (Fr) 1:35:38; 3 D Holding 1:45:28; 4 D Lemmerer (Fr) 1:45:32; 5 N Papworth 1:48:12.	<b>WOMEN'S WHEELCHAIR RACE (GB or Irl unless stated):</b> 1 M Wetterstrom (Swe) 1:57:39; 2 T Grey 2:11:10; 3 P Dockery (Irl) 2:14:53; 4 K Durke 2:39:51; 5 M Rice 2:47:51.



Less than half a mile into the race, some runners welcome the end of a long wait at the start



Joyce Chepchumba crosses the finish line in a world best time

## ACTION REPLAY

## No shame as tears flow for United

As Manchester United prepare to face Juventus for a place in the European Cup Final on Wednesday, we recall the memorable night in 1968 when Matt Busby's side travelled to Madrid with a slender one-goal lead to battle for a place in that year's final at Wembley. Desmond Hackett, one of the most colourful football writers of his generation, reported for the Daily Express.

WEDNESDAY  
15  
MAY  
1968BY DESMOND HACKETT  
in MadridReal Madrid 3  
Manchester United 3  
Man Utd win 4-3 on aggregate

lapsed to the ground over which United had spread the glory of English soccer.

It had looked in the first half as if Real would win handsomely. They had taken a 3-1 lead - 3-2 overall - and the Bernabeu stadium was in festa. But we got the message as soon as the second half started, that United were still full of fighting soccer when brave Bobby came out with socks down to his ankles.

He was a general of glorious calibre, calming, soothing, and urging on a team that, for a spell, appeared to have lost faith in themselves. I was here last Wednesday, in the same seat, watching England thrash Spain. I thought that would



David Sadler (No 10) celebrates his goal for Manchester United against Real Madrid MSI

be the height of my English pride, but that game had nothing to match tonight's splendour.

There were 120,000 fans. The noise would have shattered the courage of any other player but those of United. I have never known such sound and fury. United's plan was to contain Real for the first 20

minutes - and this they did with a high grade of competence. But after 31 minutes Real scored.

A highly suspect free-kick was lavished upon them. It was taken by Amancio and Pirri headed powerfully into goal. After 41 minutes the oldest man in European football, 35-year-old Francisco Gento, guided

delicately along the left wing, evaded four fierce tackles, and scored a goal of superb brilliance.

The fireworks were exploding still when Zoco took the ball from Brian Kidd's feet and put it into his own goal. With the last kick of the first half Amancio raced through to score and put Real into a 3-2 over-

all lead. I was sufficiently churlish to think that United were playing without bravery. They made me a grin and false prophet.

After 72 minutes George Best put over a cross and David Sadler headed in to make it 3-3 on aggregate. Five minutes later Best cut through and who should score the winning goal but Old Man Bill Foulkes.

There were 14 minutes to go, but they belonged to United. They controlled Real, they silenced the crowd, and those who had not moved away stayed to applaud.

Matt Busby, with tears streaming down his face, said afterwards: "This is without doubt United's greatest night - our finest hour." Last word from Velazquez. Real's inside forward: "I hope United win the final. I would rather they won it than any other team - except, of course, Real."

Real Madrid: Belanovic, Gonzalez, Sanchez, Pirri, Zinzunegui, Zoco, Perez, Amancio, Grosso, Velazquez, Gento.

Manchester United: Stoney, Brennan, Dunne, Greard, Foulkes, Soles, Best, Kidd, Charlton, Sadler, Aston.

## Bradford have the finishing power

## RUGBY LEAGUE

BY DAVE HADFIELD

Warrington Wolves 14  
Bradford Bulls 22

BRADFORD FOUND Warrington much sterner opposition in Super League than in the Challenge Cup, but finished the stronger to consolidate their place in the top five. A try 12 minutes from time from their Australian second-rower, David Boyle, broke the deadlock yesterday in a contest that was intriguingly balanced, although it was the Bulls who always seemed to have the winning of it.

Warrington, who conceded 52 points in their Cup tie at Oldal, were chasing the game virtually through-out, succeeding twice in catching it, once with a try of quite exceptional brilliance. It was a standard they could not sustain for long enough.

Bradford took an early lead when James Lowe's kick wrong-footed the defence by skidding to a halt just short of the dead-ball line to allow Stuart Spruce to dive through and claim the four points.

Lee Briers's penalty halved that lead, but when Henry Paul combined with Boyle to send Michael Withers over, it seemed that Bradford were getting into their stride.

It will come as little consolation to Warrington after a second Super League defeat in a row that the try that brought them level for the first time was as good as anything that anyone will produce this season.

Gary Chambers and Simon Gillies both did remarkably well to keep the ball alive, Briers slung it out to Alan Hunt, who measured his pass perfectly for Mark Forster. Lee Fenny, sharp and dangerous all afternoon, backed up to take the inside pass and with Briers' conversion Warrington were on level terms at half-time.

Henry Paul's high kick, touched on by Stuart Felden, came back to him as the Bulls once again took the lead early in the second half, Scott Naylor completing a move which Warrington clearly felt involved a knock-on.

Warrington equalised with a similar effort, Briers' bomb this time bouncing clear of a tangle of players for Forster to touch down. In conditions that worsened steadily during the second half due to hail and sleet storms, it was always likely that a mistake would be decisive. So it proved, Steve McCurrie losing the greasy ball in Paul Deacon's tackle and Lowe using the gift of possession to send Boyle driving over.

Henry Paul's second conversion puts Bradford six points ahead and Briers did not help matters by putting his kick-off straight into touch. When Warrington were penalised for ripping the ball loose, Paul's third goal put the issue beyond doubt.

Warrington: Briers, Perry, Roach, Hunt, Koko-Lowe, Forster, Duff, Briers, Hunt, Fenny, Chambers, Gillies, Knott, Warrington, Substitutes: Scott, Leachman, McCurrie, Busby, Hanger, Bradford: Boyle, Spruce, Naylor, Packer, Naylor, Williams, H. Paul, R. Paul, McCormick, Lowe, Anderson, Boyle, Deane, Forster, Substitutes: Beaton, Fielden, Pryce, Jones.

Referee: S. Priestley (Castleford).

## St Helens survive barrage

AN UNINSPIRED St Helens yesterday were forced to hold on against Sheffield to maintain their 100 per cent Super League record with a 39-30 victory. The way they let the Eagles back into the match at Knowsley Road proves Bradford, who remain second after breaking Warrington's unbeaten home record, have top spot within their grasp.

Saints conceded four tries, enabling the Eagles to hit back from 22-6 down midway through the first half to trail by only two points at the break. Saints eventually held out to take their record to six wins from six Super League starts this season.

Dale Powell had given Sheffield the lead after 10 minutes, but tries from Kevin Iro, Paul Wellens, Keiron Cunningham and Sonny Nickle put the home team into a seemingly unassailable 22-6 lead. But Sheffield replied when Keith Senior put Bright Sodge over and then Jeff Hardy touched down, with three Mark Aston goals making it 22-20 at the break. Saints were never in control in the second half but managed touchdowns from Tony Stewart and Apollo Perrelli.

Wakefield Trinity enjoyed a seven-try romp as they racked up their second Super League win by beating London Broncos 40-8. The centre Adam Hughes scored a magnificent hat-trick of tries in the first half for the Wildcats and took his personal points total to 24 with six conversions.

Results, tables, page 9

# MONDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • PLUS THE INFORMATION DAILY

**They're mad for blue decking and willow fences. They're fond of Alan Titchmarsh's cute sort of charm.**

**But what the millions of 'Ground Force' fans really love is that Charlie Dimmock doesn't bother with bras**

**C**harlie Dimmock - that great pioneer of bra-less gardening - is coming round my house! We are all very excited. I am excited, because I want to show her my own water feature, cleverly constructed from a wholly nasty B&Q barbecue left out for six winters, and now full of big, floating, rusty bits. However, my partner is even more excited. Naturally, this is not because he is especially keen on gardening although, that said, he has, on occasion, put on old trousers and told me where to dig. No, he is excited because Charlie, he says, is pure horticultural Viagra. Charlie's bosom, he continues, is a magnificent thing, especially when she's out there with a pick-axe in one of those superbly thin T-shirts and the weather is playing ball. He has even come up with a little plan to make his fortune. He is, he says, going to set up a stall outside, offering teas, coffees and binoculars to the local males of the neighbourhood, according to the following price scale.

If the weather is mild: 50p

If there is a nip in the air: £7.95

If there's a lot of nip in the air, plus every chance of a downpour: £69.80

Oh, come on, I cry, in my outraged feminist way. You're being totally pathetic. You could get at least £265.90 for the last one. Charlie cold and wet? That's something most blokes would move to Sweden and get an adult cable channel for. He says: "Are binoculars actually necessary, do you think?" Anyway, I tell all this to Charlie later, and she laughs most heartily. She is, yes, quite a hearty woman all round, which is possibly why men like her so. She is kind of real. She is not a TV Carol. She doesn't look like she pays someone to go into reverse for her. She looks, instead, like someone who can go at it all day on a glass of water. And then, perhaps, do a spot of gardening, too.

A lot of people now watch *Ground Force* - the BBC garden make-over programme that stars Charlie (the water feature expert) and Tommy Walsh (the builder) and Alan Titchmarsh (who gets hypnotically camper by the minute). Indeed, the programme, which regularly attracts audiences of more than 11 million, is the second most watched BBC programme after *EastEnders*. But, unlike *EastEnders*, it doesn't make you all gloomy. It just makes you want blue decking and fiddly willow fences and a pebble pool and a bubble fountain and ornamental grasses which, Charlie confirms, are "trendy, trendy TRENDY". So what's not trendy, Charlie? "Formal borders are pretty unfashionable." Plus, she says, she doesn't personally much like conifers. Why? "Because they just stand there, being conifers, don't they?" I can see she has a point.

The spin off book from the series, *The Ground Force Workbook*, has been top of the best-seller list since it was published in early February, and is now in its fourth reprint. It's Charlie that has given the programme its brilliant, almost soft-porn edge, and it's Charlie who's becoming the biggest celebrity. Charlie is getting her own TV show soon. Charlie is bringing out her own book on water features soon. Charlie has been hired to open a garden centre in Bagshot and is being fitted for a Bettie Midler-style mermaid costume. A number of garden tool manufacturers are interested in bringing out ranges under her name. (The Dimmock Dab, perhaps?) AA Gill, *The Sunday Times* television critic, is very in love with her. "She arrives on our screens from a long line of very English bawds and milkmaids, serving girls, tavern wenches and strumpets that sway provocatively," he wrote recently. "Charlie is in our genes, and we just wish we were in hers." Yes, she did read it. And? "I had to hide it from my boyfriend. It was so embarrassing!" You don't think of yourself as a great sex goddess, then? "Heavens, no! How can you suddenly become sexy? I've never been sexy. I was not a pretty child. I was fat and pasty and ginger..."

It's a cold morning. But no, it's not wet. It's hailing! "Yes, yes!" exclaims my partner, doing mini-jigs of celebration. "There is a god." And, yes, Charlie is wearing one of her thin T-shirts. Just standing in our rather chilly kitchen, it's hard not to mistake her for a mug tree. Charlie, dear, have you never heard of this thing called THE BRA? It is, I think you'll find, an undergarment designed to cover and support women's breasts. It was first created in the early 1900s from two handkerchiefs and a narrow ribbon, but things have improved enormously since then.

She says she doesn't know what all the fuss is about. "I'm sure 50 per cent of women don't bother with bras." "Do you think so?" asks my partner. "And I do find them so uncomfortable."



## Storm in a B-cup

Even sports bras ride up when you raise your arms," she adds. "Do they?" he asks. "The BBC tried to make me wear one once," she continues, "but I spent the whole time hoisting." "Hoisting, yes," he says sympathetically. "And it's not as if I'm even big-busted. I'm only a 36B." "36B," he repeats, longingly. "36B!" I cry. I say Charlie, I dream of being a 36B. I say Charlie, if people looked at me through binoculars, they'd think they'd got them the wrong way round. "And that's a fact!" my partner exclaims. I say: "OUT!" And: "OUT. OUT. OUT!" He disappears sulkily.

Still, Charlie can get away with it because she is very natural. And gorgeous, in that tavern wench way. She is not fat and pasty and ginger any more. She has masses of strawberry blonde hair. She has fantastic skin. She has very pale blue eyes. Her make-up regime is: "Take it off the next morning, if I remember." She has dirt under her fingernails. She has kept on the day job, as manager of a water garden centre in Hampshire, "and sometimes, I have to soak my hands in Domestos to get them clean". She is not a size 10. "I had to go to this TV-awards do recently, and all these designers wanted to lend me dresses, but they were all size 10. I had to tell them I would burst out of a size 10." She's not a one-Ryvita-and-a-peeled-radish-for-lunch sort of woman. She's a woman of some appetite. She likes "all you can eat" restaurants best. She likes wine. Her boyfriend of 11 years, John, who now works as a pond supply wholesaler, used to be a viticulturist. They get through at least three bottles nightly. John's quite fussy about his wine, whereas Charlie isn't. "Everything tastes all right by the third glass to me."

We go out into my garden. Already I can see my neighbours - Peter on one side. Jerry on the other - hanging over their fences. Peter says: "Charlie, I'm thinking of making my circular pond square. What do you think?" Jerry says: "Charlie, my fish seem a bit still. Why is that?" Charlie says: "Square's fine if you want square." And: "It could be the fluctuating water temperatures." Peter and Jerry are very keen on gardening. Sometimes I'm reluctant to send our son out to play, in case he comes back all pruned and pinched out. I am rather less keen on gardening. I might even be pure horticultural disaster. I give Charlie a quick tour. She is very impressed, not only with my barbecue water feature, but also with the rock garden, which I inherited from the

previous owners, in which even the rocks seem to have crumbled and died. As for the lawn, we have enhanced this nicely over the years with a cricket mud-patch, a football mud-patch, and a mud-patch mud-patch. I say I'm thinking of replacing the whole lot with AstroTurf and, maybe, a lot of vivid *Brady Bunch* plastic shrubs. She says that's not especially kind to wildlife. I say what has wildlife ever done for me, apart from go: "Bzz, bzz... sting." Jerry says: "So you don't think my fish are dead, then?" Peter says: "I think square is neater somehow." I say that if I catch her using my barbecue idea on *Ground Force*, I'll get her. It's patent pending, you know.

She was born Charlotte Eloise Dimmock. Her father, Terry, was a merchant seaman, who was away for long spells. She loved it when he came home, she says, "because then we got a cooked

daisy shapes. She was always throwing parties. I have vivid recollections of waking up under piles of coats." Charlie spent a lot of time with her grandparents - her mother's parents, Phyllis and Steven - which is how her interest in gardening began. Grandad Steven worked on a large country estate as a gardener, and Charlie would stay at the weekends, helping him weed and plant carrots and peas. She loved her grandad. "He always used to put me to bed at night, and rub my back, and sing songs. On Saturday afternoons we used to sit in front of the telly, watching the football results, eating watercress sandwiches. Just hearing the football results now makes my mouth fill with the taste of watercress."

While still at school, she took a Saturday job at the garden centre where she is now the manager. She made her first telly appearance on a local gardening programme, *Grass Roots*: a three-minute spot on water features. Subsequently, she was asked by the same producer to co-present *Ground Force*. She had no idea it would become so popular. It's not like a gardening programme has ever topped the ratings before. She thinks it might be because, what with the baby-boomers now having their own homes, more people, and younger people, are now into gardening than ever before. I say this is possibly true, but it's also to do with the personalities involved. Viewers want to see Charlie labouring in her bra-less way. And they want to see Tommy going: "oooooooohhhhhh, I dunno 'bout this." And they want to see Alan going about in his brilliantly amiable way. Tell me, Charlie, is Alan ever not amiable. "Well, when he gets really stressed, he can say the odd naughty word." No! "YES!" So it's all seething underneath? She says she wouldn't exactly go that far.

She enjoys being a celebrity, although is determined not to get too used to it. She has, she says, squirreled most of the money away. "And I still go around in a knackered Vauxhall." Still, she recently spent £200 on a pair of gold sandals. "And there is nothing to them. Just three inch stiletto heels and one teeny gold strap... I told my boyfriend they were £120, and my dad that they were £85." My partner re-appears at this point. He is quite taken by the thought of Charlie in gold high heels. "She's got gold high heels," he later calls out to Peter. "She's got gold high heels," he later calls out to Jerry. They say they'd pay ANYTHING to see her mulching in those.



**DEBORAH ROSS**  
FEATURE WRITER  
OF THE YEAR

breakfast". Her mother, Sue, who now works in PR, was quite a hippie and, at least initially, rather indisposed to parenthood. "She didn't want children and when she found out she was pregnant with me, she sat in a hot bath and drank gin." How terrible to know that, I say. Not at all, she says. It's not like she ever felt unloved. "I remember once getting smacked for playing with an ornament mum had told me not to play with and being absolutely shocked." She says she isn't much interested in having children herself. "I just don't find babies cute. I'm sorry, but I don't."

Charlie grew up in a little cottage in a New Forest village, which her mother painted pink with red shutters. "I suppose mum was quite wild out. She wore groovy dresses. I remember her going bare-legged in a crocheted dress made of

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL, and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

## War is always nasty

Sir: When I see your headline "This is a horror story" (16 April) and listen to every news bulletin going over and over the events of the attack on the refugee column in Kosovo, I begin to believe that you in the media must all be 19 years old.

As someone who lived in London throughout the last war I remember the thousands of London's civilians who were killed on purpose – not accidentally. You must learn that war is dangerous, nasty, bloody, unfair, unjust and uncomfortable and disrupts people's lives for years afterwards. If every mistake is to be analysed by Nato, UN and world-wide media you will soon find that many, particularly those that have lived through war, will just shut it off.

So do try and grow up. What you young people are reporting is war. MARGARET BELL  
London N6

Sir: While the loss of life incurred during the mistaken attack on a group of Kosovo refugees is highly regrettable, such error in modern warfare is by no means uncommon. Given the speed at which various scenarios emerge it is surprising that such incidents are not more common. No amount of smart technology has yet negated the role of the man on the trigger.

Modern conflicts have a long history of such accidents, from infantrymen in the American Civil War of both sides firing on their own compatriots, to the firing on the Grimsby fishing fleet by the Imperial Russian Navy; many incidents in both World Wars and the attack by an American fighter on a British armoured column during the Gulf war.

As soon as conflict is entered upon there is a sad certainty that such incidents will happen. They should not be used as an excuse to call for the abandonment of a just cause. The real tragedy is that such incidents divert attention from the inhuman activities of the Serbian military and paramilitary forces in Kosovo. Thankfully Nato high command are not so easily swayed from their purpose. IAN M HENDERSON  
Rochester, Kent

Sir: The attack on a convoy of Albanian Kosovar refugees is a tragedy in two senses. The most immediate tragedy is that a large number of non-combatants have been slaughtered by the US military, but beneath the surface lies another, darker and deeper tragedy – that the US public sees this attack as an aberration, and that the US media largely reports it as such. The historical record of US "interventions" shows a pattern of massive and often indiscriminate slaughter of civilians.

In the war against Vietnam hundreds of thousands of civilians were murdered by US forces; the 1989 invasion of Panama resulted in the deaths of 3,000 civilians; during and after the war against Iraq, hundreds of thousands of Iraqi civilians were (and are being) killed by the destruction of Iraqi infrastructure coupled with the US sanctions against Iraq.

These crimes are being committed in our name, so if we are really concerned about the deaths of innocent people we should be opposing the policies of any government which facilitates them. Failure to do so makes us all guilty of war crimes. MARKA LUNN  
Irvington, New York, USA

Sir: While reading recently I came across a few lines that caught my eye: "The knee-jerk reaction of the generals and admirals was to demand more bombing. But after every new attack they raised the ante. Throughout this dialogue, they issued statements extolling the air campaign as 'highly effective'."

Strangely enough, this was not referring to Serbia, but to Rolling Thunder, the US air war against North Vietnam of 30 years ago, which dragged on for years and never achieved its aim of forcing the North Vietnamese to accept an American policy or world view.



Bullfighting School No 1: young matadors or 'Novilleros', in Madrid, await the start of their first 'corrida' of the year

David Rose

I also seem to recall similar strident claims to effectiveness during Desert Storm, which were rather more quietly revised after the event.

Reading on with the current situation in mind, I came across the following: "Administration officials had been trying to depict the air offensive as a 'surgical' endeavour that miraculously spared North Vietnamese people, knowing full well that the raids frequently struck civilian targets."

I seem to recall being told, many years ago, that the study of history is supposed to allow us to avoid repeating the mistakes of the past, when the sad fact is that politicians select the historic example that supports the position they want to take. "History never repeats itself," as I believe Voltaire said, "but man always does." N R TURNER  
London NW9

Sir: Amid the propaganda and counter-propaganda about the conflict in Yugoslavia, the UN has either been ignored or reduced merely to looking after Kosovan refugees.

The UN's primary function, under Chapter 7 of the Charter, of restoring international peace and security has been usurped by Nato. This constitutes a dangerous precedent for world politics and international law, as it implies the supremacy of a regional military alliance over the Security Council. This could lead to political instability and anarchy on a global scale. On the basis of the Nato doctrine of "humanitarian intervention," any state or group of states could arbitrarily declare a humanitarian emergency and wage war against a sovereign state.

It is high time that the General Assembly be convened on the basis of the "Uniting For Peace resolution". This resolution – 377A(V) – demands, if the Security Council "because of lack of unanimity of the permanent members fails to exercise its primary responsibility, namely to maintain or restore international

peace and security, the General Assembly will consider the matter immediately with a view to making appropriate recommendations to members for collective measures". A simple majority of the General Assembly can convene this meeting.

The suffering of the Muslim people of Kosovo has no doubt increased manifold since the Nato bombing started. It could be quickly ended and their right of return secured by peaceful means and on the basis of the UN Charter. MOHAMMED ARIFF  
General Secretary  
British-Afro-Asian Solidarity Organisation  
London SW15

Sir: Barry White and others (letter, 17 April) protest against the idea of Serbian television being forced to broadcast daily up to six hours of "Western reports", and ask whether the people in this country would not be outraged if a foreign state tried to "control the contents of our own media".

The trouble with this parallel is

Sir: Hamish McRae could be right on the sucking of talent and money to smaller rather than larger companies (Comment, 15 April), but there is a bigger question. The gap between the rich and the poor now has an extra dimension. Not just more rich and more poor but more young rich and poor. How long before those on the terraces decide that those on the pitch deserve a good kicking? Or will those in the Beckham league show a new sense of social responsibility and help their contemporaries a little? TERRY JOHNSON  
Holt, Norfolk

Sir: The Government is missing the point in its backing for Chris Woodhead regarding his alleged affair with a student. Mrs Woodhead may not be able

that "our own media" are fully open to outside information and reports, while the Serbian ones are fully closed. The British can follow TV and radio broadcasts by non-British stations, including Serbian, and buy newspapers in a variety of languages, including Serbian. No one here censors the reports filed by Robert Fisk and John Simpson or the comments penned by John Pilger. The Serbians living in this country can organise demonstrations, publish letters in the newspapers and give interviews to radio and television. Serbian journalists are free to come and send their reports without hindrance.

None of this is possible in Serbia. There the media is fully censored and reports only the government's point of view. As a result most Serbians have no idea what is happening in Kosovo or why Nato is dropping bombs. It would be of great benefit to the population of Serbia to see some of the pictures we daily see on our TV screens. BRANKA MAGAS  
London W10

## Absent parents

Sir: I was dismayed on reading your report "Access rights put children in danger" (15 April) and Yasmin Alibhai-Brown's Comment piece of the same date, to find no mention of the valuable role played by child contact centres in facilitating meetings between the children of separated families and the parent with whom they no longer live.

It was precisely to ensure a neutral place of safety for such meetings that the National Association of Child Contact Centres has grown up. There is now a network of over 200 in the UK. Staffed by trained volunteers, they offer assurance to the resident parent that the children will be able to spend time with the non-resident parent without fear of harm, whatever the earlier history in the family may have been. The volunteers are there in the background, allowing parent and child to play together and so remain acquainted.

Family law solicitors and the family courts are all aware of the

existence of CCCs. In any cases where parents would find it hard to make their own contact arrangements, the court order would refer the parents to the CCC.

Over the years in which our own CCC has been operating we have observed many successful meetings between parents and children – and often indeed in improved relationships between the parents, although we do not set out to be a mediation organisation. SHEENA RITCHIE  
Hon Secretary  
St Andrews Child Contact Centre  
Sheffield

## Fighting racism

Sir: Anti-racist citizenship education in the National Curriculum may be a welcome step (report, 15 April), but there must also be a vital "frontline role" in fighting racism for youth work. Many of those young people who may be most susceptible to racist influences will be precisely those who are either not in school or are disinclined to be told by teachers what it means to be British.

According to police figures the Bede House Detached Youth Project in Bermondsey, referred to in your article, achieved a 46 per cent reduction in racial attacks over the three years it was funded by the National Youth Agency. It was able to achieve this because dedicated, trained, not to mention brave, youth workers were able to build relationships of trust with the kind of young white men who perpetrate violence and harassment. They could do this by listening to them, helping them, and not rejecting them but rejecting and challenging the racism they displayed.

We have had Scarman, we have had Macpherson. None of us wants to hang around until the next time. What are the Home Office and Department for Education and Employment waiting for? TOM WYLIE  
Chief Executive  
National Youth Agency  
Leicester

## Ulster arms pledge

Sir: The minimal interpretation of the Good Friday Agreement favoured by Frank Murphy and Hugh Mulcahy (letters, 15 April) is not the only possible one. But even if the agreement did not commit the republicans to an early start to decommissioning, they were already committed by their own words.

Senator Mitchell and his colleagues on the International Body reported in January 1996: "We have concluded that there is a clear commitment on the part of those in possession of [paramilitary] arms to work constructively to achieve a full and verifiable decommissioning as part of the process of all-party negotiations."

Nothing that has happened since justified the republicans reneging on that commitment. Paramilitary prisoners are being released, despite the pain caused to the victims and bereaved.

It is sometimes claimed that republicans need arms for self-defence. As Gerry Adams put it in a speech in New York last May: "People still have vivid memories of the burning out of nationalist homes at the start of the troubles, while the RUC watched, and therefore feel a need for defence; it is not a question of retaining a capacity for attack." In that case, there should be no problem about decommissioning arms of a kind which can only be used offensively, such as Semtex, rocket launchers, detonators. That would constitute the "credible beginning" David Trimble is asking for.

Another objection is that decommissioning would mean surrender. But only the republicans are using such language. In January 1996, the International Body said "the decommissioning process should suggest neither victory nor defeat", and the British and Irish governments have followed that recommendation scrupulously. Paramilitaries do not have to hand in their arms to either government or even to the Independent International Commission. They can destroy them themselves, provided that the commission verifies it. STEPHEN PLOWDEN  
London NW1

## Equality for gays

Sir: Professor Stephen Genn regards ideas of equality as "emotive" and "irrelevant" in the context of the debate over the homosexual age of consent (letter, 16 April).

Equality under the law may well be an emotive subject but it is not irrelevant. As a result of the current state of the law, the European Commission on Human Rights has found the UK in breach of articles 8 and 14 of the convention. This is because the law intrudes into private life in a discriminatory fashion without good cause.

It was suggested that unequal ages of consent could be justified on the grounds of differing "emotional and physical maturity" as between boys and girls. This argument was rejected by the Royal College of Psychiatrists in their response to the 1976 Criminal Law Review and by the British Medical Association in their 1984 report.

The net result of the Sexual Offences Acts of 1956 and 1967 is that a homosexual age of consent offence leaves both parties – older and younger – liable to prosecution. What better weapon can be given to an abuser? I cannot think of a more certain way of ensuring that such abuse remains undiscovered and unpunished. LAURENCE JUPP  
Bristol

## Save me, Monsanto!

Sir: What is this subversive document, the Genetix Snowball handbook (letters, 15, 16 April)? Can we all have one? If so, we will also receive copies of the Monsanto injunctions? It would be nice to know how much the company are concerned to protect us from our own potential folly. JOSE JOHNS  
Worcester

## IN BRIEF

to prove Mr Woodhead's guilt but neither can he establish his innocence. Mud sticks. While he remains in office, any teacher criticised in an Ofsted report will be able to reply that they are at least not sleeping with their students. B A WAITE  
Reading, Berkshire

Sir: Robert Hanks (Television Review, 13 April) is right that modern children look too well fed to depict the pinched orphans of Dickens's imagination. However he is wrong to include Gabriel Thomson (young Pip in *Great Expectations*). The convict in the churchyard described Pip as having fat cheeks. The Gargery household did not go

short of food – Dickens provides a mouth-watering description of that Christmas dinner and Pip stole brandy, cheese and a pork pie to give to the convict. LYS GABLE  
Hereford

Sir: Bill Robinson's article (Business Review, 14 April) is principally concerned with justifying the excessive profits of the supermarket chains on the grounds that food retailers need excessive profits to innovate. The margins of continental European food retailers are substantially less than those of their UK counterparts. Give me their prices and lack of innovation. The best incentive for innovation is competition, not excessive profits. BOB ESCOLME  
Arundel, West Sussex

## The marathon is about love, sex... and Welsh politics

THE COUPLE who got married while they were actually running in this year's London Marathon were not the only ones to make history in the great race. There were many other curious stories to come out of the long distance ordeal, including the following...

"We got divorced during the 1999 London Marathon."

Jim and Emily Littwak actually met during the 1995 London Marathon, during the latter stages of the race, when both were looking for any excuse to give up. He encouraged her to persevere to the end, love flourished thereafter and they got married in 1996. However, Emily met someone else during the 1997 Marathon and, well, it was love at first sight again.

"I could somehow sense when Emily moved in with this other fel-

low that our marriage was beginning to drift apart," admits Jim Littwak, "and this year we decided that enough was enough. Still, we thought it only fitting that a marriage that had started in the Marathon should finish in the Marathon, so we arranged for divorce proceedings to be started during the race today. And all may turn out for the best, as during the race today I met a nice girl whom I am seeing again tomorrow."

"I took up Welsh politics during the London Marathon," David Williams, who left his native Cardiff 12 years ago, was nearing the 10-mile mark in the Marathon when he was approached by two Welsh Labour Party workers who were out canvassing for votes among Welsh expatriates as they ran.

"It was quite odd, really. One moment I was getting my second wind, the next moment someone was asking me if I was aware that I had a vote in the Welsh Assembly elections and whether I would be using it. Then another voice asked me how important the Welsh identity was to me. Then I said that I had left Wales to get away from all this sort of thing, but that if I did vote it would probably be Plaid Cymru, and the first voice said, how could I vote for anyone with such an English name as Wigley? Then we got into quite an argument after that, and I must have lost track of time, because the next thing I knew we were crossing the Severn Bridge into Wales!"

"I fathered a love child during the London Marathon," Sidney and Georgia Greenslade

claim to have made love during this year's London Marathon, and that the ensuing child may be a Mil-



MILES KINGDON

What is it about this long distance ordeal that causes such curious behaviour?

lennium Marathon baby, but they refuse to go into details, not so much because they are coy about it as because they have signed up their story to a rival newspaper.

"I cooked and served a complete three course dinner while running the London Marathon," TV chef Audrey Mannington has been looking for a gimmick for a new TV cooking series ever since his last series *Chef Up A Gum Tree* (which showed what handy recipes you could cook while lost in a forest) didn't get a commission for a second series. He thinks he has found a worthy replacement in his new series *Cook On The Run* which shows what handy meals you can dish up without ever standing still. During yesterday's race, he not only successfully served up soup, salmon and soufflé, but managed

to set fire to several rival runners whom he promptly doused with mineral water.

"I've done a lot of funny things in my life," says Mannington, "but that's the first time I've gone up to someone on fire and said, 'Sparkling or still, sir?'"

"I made over £200,000 during the race!"

Young city financier Edwin Phelps likes to keep in touch with the markets round the world every day of the week, including Sunday. That's why even though running the Marathon he still took a mobile phone with him.

"I estimated I would take about three hours for the race, which is three hours away from the markets if you don't have a phone. So I took one with me and did a lot of business during the race. I got a lot of

cross looks from other runners but I think they'd have thought differently if they knew I made about a quarter of a million during the race. Something to do with the adrenaline, I guess. Doesn't work for everyone. There was a guy I was running close to who was also on the phone and he must have lost about a quarter of a million during the race. That may have been why he threw himself off the bridge when we crossed the Thames. Damned stupid thing to do. Didn't he know his noble wouldn't work underwater?"

"I changed sex during the London Marathon."

"It's always been my ambition to start the Marathon as a man and end it as a woman," says Julian, now Julia, Ordish (continued some other time).

# THE INDEPENDENT

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## A Commons vote is the true test of a just war

IT IS simply baffling that the Government will try to avoid a vote in the House of Commons tonight on the war in Yugoslavia. The outcome is not remotely in doubt. There is a huge cross-party majority among MPs, as there is in the country, in support of military action against Slobodan Milosevic's regime. All that a vote would do would be to quantify precisely the size of the tiny minority that is opposed to the war, a strange alliance of isolationist Conservatives like Alan Clark and quasi-pacifists like Tony Benn.

And yet the Prime Minister would rather not have a vote, presumably because it could conceivably be used to present Britain as a divided nation through the distorting lens of Serb propaganda. His instinct could not be more wrong. When the nation is engaged, as Tony Blair himself put it, in a war of civilisation against barbarity, it is central to the whole business that public support for a just cause must be democratically tested and expressed.

If Mr Blair had asked the Commons for its head-counted endorsement from the start, it would have been granted and Mr Benn would have been deprived of the chance to hawk his tiny patch of the moral high ground around the newspapers. Mr Benn's assertion that the constitutional rules governing the making of war in this country are unclear is right and important, but it is beside the point in the present case. It is indeed time that the moth-eaten fiction of Crown prerogative were replaced by the simple requirement that the House of Commons should give its explicit approval for the committing of British armed forces and for the objectives which they are set. But that is in any case the underlying reality, because a prime minister, in peace and war, must command the confidence of the House. There is no doubt that Mr Blair is doing what parliament and people want him to do. A vote would have strengthened the Government's hand, not weakened it.

The Commons quite rightly debated the bombing of Yugoslavia on 25 March, the day after it started, but instead of claiming its democratic mandate, the Government resorted to a student-union procedural tactic to deny its opponents a vote. It had pulled the same trick last December, when the Commons debated the bombing of Iraq, and it should have learnt then that it needlessly undermined its own moral authority. It is not as if Britain presents a monolithic face to Belgrade in any case. In our free press and free parliament, opposition to the war has been fully aired. But each expression of doubt and dismay only reinforces the contrast between pluralism and the state-controlled media of Belgrade.

Let the shaking heads be counted tonight, and let a just and democratic war be fought by means as just and democratic as we can make them.



## Will the end mean the end of Milosevic?

BEFORE THE time comes to vote, however, there is plenty for the Commons to discuss. Nato is nowhere near the endgame in the Balkans yet, but already the "How do we end this?" problem can be detected. In the Gulf war, the question of pursuing Saddam Hussein's troops all the way to Baghdad raised itself long before the original objective, the liberation of Kuwait, was fulfilled. Many in the West regretted the decision to stop at the border.

Yesterday, President Clinton appeared to apply that lesson to the situation in Yugoslavia by saying: "The region cannot be secure with a belligerent tyrant in its midst." Is Nato now committed not just to liberating Kosovo but to getting rid of Milosevic?

The trouble is that the one has always implied the

other. Milosevic came to power in Belgrade on the back of the "Kosovo issue", the claim that this province, with its sacred orthodox Christian sites but majority Muslim population, is the "heart of Serbia". And both Bill Clinton and Tony Blair have ruled out the partition of Kosovo or any other compromise. Javier Solana, Nato secretary general, said peace would be "difficult" without a "democratic Yugoslavia". Perhaps, when he addresses the Commons this afternoon, the Prime Minister will explain how a democratic Yugoslavia can be brought about.

## Art after midnight

THE ALL-NIGHT opening of the Monet exhibition in London to mark the end of its crowd-pulling run could be derided simply as a gimmick. If that was a gimmick, let us have more of them. It is about time art galleries treated their paintings less as sacramental objects and more

as entertainment. Why not look at Monet's art through different eyes, bleary at three o'clock in the morning in an unexpected crowd, instead of reverentially in the afternoon when feet seem to hurt most? It is best not to be too clear-eyed about Monet in any case. The artist himself suffered increasingly from cataracts and became in later life a painter of almost pure colour, his paintings studies of the instability of colour in light. The clear-eyed critics have had this exhibition wrong, complaining that too many of the repetitive versions of similar themes are not masterpieces. True, but it is not grounds for complaint: this was an exhibition of a master, not of masterpieces. Monet himself did not regard most of the works as finished. And his restless attempts to capture the effects of light, mist, fog and movement lend themselves to being captured by noisier nocturnal crowds. Why should culture for the masses mean only football? If we can shop and dance all night, then we can do 24-hour high culture too.

# On Ashdown's succession hangs the future of the Blair project

IT IS an irony, just as the campaign for the Scottish Parliament elections begin in earnest, that at least two of the front-runners to lead one of the three UK-wide political parties may still end up being Scots. This is reassuring to those of us who fear the prospect of the break-up of the United Kingdom. But that's not the only, or even the main, point. Academic a question as it may seem, the question of who succeeds Paddy Ashdown to the leadership of the Liberal Democrats matters to the future of British politics much more than most of those outside the party are prepared, especially in the middle of a war, to admit. It is not too much to say that on it may turn the future of the Blair project to transform the landscape of British politics, bring the Labour and Liberal traditions closer together, and to make, in Lord Jenkins' resonant terminology, the 21st century a radical one in the way that the 20th was a Conservative.

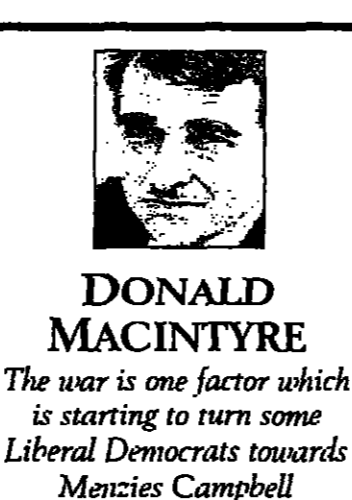
If you doubt that the Liberal Democrats still matter to Tony Blair, consider this: in one of the more under-reported events of the weekend it was announced that Ashdown was travelling to the Balkans as the Prime Minister's envoy. No doubt Blair's famously good personal relationship with Ashdown played an important part. There is not much point in someone poking about in Albania and Macedonia on the Prime Minister's behalf unless he's trusted. Secondly, of course, Ashdown knows the region and took an intelligent interest in it long before it was fashionable to do so. But there is, I suspect, a third reason,

which is that Blair knows that Ashdown's visible presence helps in its own way to reassure doubters, especially centre and left-of-centre doubters, that the Nato war against Milosevic's slaughter in Kosovo is worth fighting. I can think of one important Government official who was told by a relative that she felt better about the war whenever Ashdown came up on television to defend it.

In part that is because of Ashdown's personality and partly because he has real military experience; but it is also partly because he represents a liberal constituency, in the widest sense of both words, which is anything but war-mongering, and is therefore all the more convincing when he argues that war and humanitarian objectives are not mutually exclusive.

Which is where Menzies Campbell comes in. In that curiously inapt phrase applied to those who never stray anywhere more dangerous than a TV studio, a newspaper computer keyboard, or a ministerial office, Campbell is also one of those non-government politicians who has had a good war. His experience, his sober and reassuring demeanour, his real expertise in foreign and security matters, and his supportive but unsycophantic judgments of the Nato alliance has been especially evident in TV and radio coverage of the war by comparison with the near-invisibility of Tories Michael Howard and John Major during the last few weeks.

This is interesting because it may affect the calculation of whether Campbell does eventually decide to stand for the party leadership. He has



made it clear that he will not make up his mind until after the Scottish, Welsh and local elections. An Edinburgh QC, with a happy family and social life, he could yet decide to pass up the hassle that the party leadership would entail - always supposing he won it. What's more, he has been extremely hesitant, perhaps too hesitant, about taking part in an election which he is not pretty confident of winning.

But although his uncertainty remains genuine, the war is one factor which is starting gradually to turn at least some Liberal Democrat minds towards Campbell. This isn't merely a matter of regular and convincing appearances of television. It has also raised the question of whether a British party leader at the end of this century doesn't need to be someone

with a lively and knowledgeable interest in international affairs.

But there is also another reason. Charles Kennedy, the other leading Scottish candidate, is clearly the man to beat in the Liberal Democrat leadership contest. He is intelligent, also a convincing media performer, and, unlike all too many modern politicians, is fun, having both wit and charm. Finally, and this may be at once his greatest strength, but also his potential weakness, he is a unifying candidate. He doesn't yet, it's fair to say, have a very clear message, a convincing one-line answer to the sort of question which once fatally floored his namesake Ted Kennedy's attempt to secure a Democratic nomination: "Why do you want to be President of the US?" But it looks as though Kennedy's line is somewhere in the middle between the outright enthusiasts for Lib-Lab co-operation and its outright opponents. Of the latter, Jackie Ballard, an attractive politician, is the one with easily the most appeal among activists and the councillors. She will do well; but activists do not control the election. All the signs are that the members as a whole are more benignly inclined towards co-operation with Labour than that notoriously if good humouredly stropky organism, the party conference.

But the other change is a growing recognition that, if the outright supporters of co-operation with Labour are to beat Kennedy, they will have to unite. Neil Sherlock, a supporter of the West Country MP Nick Harvey, says in an article in the forthcoming issue of the Blairite publication *Renewal*

that the contest is likely to be for one MP to represent each strand of opinion: enthusiast, cautious supporter and opponent. Which means Ballard, Kennedy and... who? The fact is that of the professed enthusiasts, neither Nick Harvey, whose recent conversion to Europe was too sudden yet to have acquired credibility, nor Don Foster, have much hope of beating the much more charismatic Kennedy.

But Campbell does. In some ways his would be quite a divisive candidacy since he is firmly in favour of closer co-operation up to and including coalition with Labour. But then his appeal to those who approve of such co-operation would be all the stronger. And oddly his age - he is 57 - should count for him. It is only very recently, in any case, that the madness of thinking that a man is too old to lead a party in his fifties has had any currency. But, as it happens, William Hague is not the best advertisement for the constant call for parties to "skip a generation".

Talks, at least between the Harvey camp and the Campbell camp, are under way. Both Scots are highly attractive for all those who don't actually want to junk the links with Labour. But Campbell, if he ran, would probably have the support of the grandees such as Lord Jenkins, and he represents the clearest-cut approach to closer co-operation with Labour. Nor would it be a disaster for Kennedy if Campbell won. He is young enough to get his teeth into a key area like foreign or home affairs. By doing so he would be in a good position to succeed Campbell when he goes.

## QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Above all, no fuss. The future is in God's hands."  
Cardinal Basil Hume, announcing that he is dying of cancer

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Don't look back. Something may be gaining on you."  
Leroy "Satchel" Paige,  
American baseball player



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## MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD  
*The Sunday papers comment on what to do next in the war in the Balkans*

In the war of words that surrounds the tragedy of Yugoslavia, one message must ring out loud and clear. The rapists, murderers and the torturers will be caught, convicted and punished for their inhuman savagery. There will be no hiding place for them.  
*News of the World*

The aim of this war is to stop Serbian genocide in Kosovo, and to ensure that the Kosovar Albanians can return to their

homes. If we are not prepared to use the only means that will achieve these ends, what is the point of pretending that we care about it? The threat contained in the leaflets dropped by Nato must prove real: "We will," the pamphlets promise the Serbs, "attack you by air, by sea and by land."  
*The Sunday Telegraph*

This week's hopes are pinned on what former Russian Prime Minister Mr Chernomyrdin can

achieve as he sounds out the combatants for a way forward. Nato's approach must be twin-track - intensifying its military offensive as it is, but talking intensively at the same time.

The Government is in danger of overdoing the former and neglecting the latter.  
*The Observer*

Nato has sown the wind, but

has left the very people it sought to help reaping the whirlwind. Its leaders should now accept the logic of General Clark's comment - and order a build-up of ground forces without delay.  
*The Mail on Sunday*

We can accept the necessity of sending in troops for peace-keeping. But this is very different from actually fighting a ground offensive. Nato must be clear that in preparing for the

former it does not slip into the latter.  
*Sunday Express*

Britain must be prepared to take in more refugees that just those with relatives already here, or in need of medical attention.

With our traditional spirit of generosity towards refugees, we must offer a temporary home to all those who volunteer to come here.  
*Sunday Mirror*

## PANDORA

**JAK LIVES!** Blower, the *Evening Standard's* maverick cartoonist, has been creating even more chaos on Max Hastings' editorial floor. On 15 April the paper's blower cartoon showed a van full of our gallant police officers about to press-gang a passing black dude in a misguided effort to improve the Met's ethnic recruitment rate.

But said black dude, instead of being an ordinary fellow, was (commented one *Standard* insider) "grotesquely stereotyped" - a caricature of a mugger. As the switchboard lit up like a Christmas tree, the sketch had to be hurriedly redrawn for the paper's later editions. Prior to this, there was the incident where Blower had an amusing orgasmic scene blanked out because editor Hastings objected to his explicit depiction of nipples. Funny, didn't Pandora notice a real nipple in the paper earlier this month?

Some readers may remember that Blower's predecessor, Jak, so outraged Ken Livingstone's crew that the old GLC withdrew all its advertising from the paper. A lesson learned?

**PARTY PATROL:** overheard at Hugh Hefner's birthday bash at his Holmby Hill demesne: "I'm only here for the articles."

**A TWIST** in the tale of the Hungry Duck, the wild Moscow club that's set to close next week. Owner Doug Steele blamed his jumpin' joint's demise on the "communist mentality".

Now he's specific about exactly which communist he has in mind - it's his landlady, an ex-ballerina who once danced a solo for Stalin. So, we learn, the Dying Swan has killed off the Hungry Duck.

**LOSE POUNDS!** Pandora's Tiny Booklet of Angst today falls open at the name of Steve Pound (Lab, Ealing North), a prime mover behind a Parliamentary early day motion acknowledging Fulham's promotion to Division One - its syrupy wording salutes the "invaluable support of Mr Mohamed al-Fayed". But Pound's last EDM was peculiar because it called on MPs not to sign EDMs. How nice to see our tax revenues spent on such weighty matters - and so consistently.

**DREW BARRYMORE** (pictured), Jennifer Aniston and Sandra Bullock are now

sporting a nail polish that reveals where the wearer is in her monthly cycle.

**PMS** (Polish Mood Shades) nail varnishes are made by a West Coast entrepreneur and are heat-activated: bloated blue changes to pouty pink; tantrum tangerine transforms to man-hating melon; and vexed violet becomes self-centred silver.

This is very good news for the emotionally illiterate; trust Pandora when she tells you that bloated blue means back off quick.

**GLOSSY BIBLE** *Harpers & Queen* is trying to educate its stuffier subscribers on 21st-century mores. In this month's edition, an etiquette adviser informs readers planning to host a supper for a member of the Milbank Mafia that: "It is acceptable to have a South American helper." What do they mean?

**GRADE AAA** pests Simon Jenkins, Jonathan Miller, George Walden, Lord Gower, and Tariq Ali should put an egg in their collective shoe and beat it.

Their weekend whining about Radio Einstein leaves these self-appointed mouthpieces for the chattering classes looking very exposed. Background: the quietest has just announced its plans for the modestly-named Einstein, a proposed subscription-funded radio station - but are precipitately demanding a national frequency because Einstein's elitist mix would "complement Radio 4".

Big hat but no cattle, guys. Point one: hadn't you noticed that the latest RAJAR numbers showed Radio 4 is winning listeners? Point two: the real media players are already walking your talk - that Irish knight Bob Geldof is flying with 10 Alps, his new radio/TV venture funded by the £4m payday from the Carlton-Planet 24 deal. As well as controlling Planet 24's existing radio shows on Radio 5 Live and IRN, which Geldof astutely excluded from the deal with Carlton, 10 Alps also plans to find its way on to a dial near you via radio licence applications and acquiring existing radio stations.

"10 Alps is not Planet 24 Mark Two," Geldof declares. "I can't see the point of just being a programme-provider."

**WHODATHUNKIT?** The London Marathon runner raising funds to fight female circumcision turned out to be... male. Contact Pandora by e-mail: [pandora@independent.co.uk](mailto:pandora@independent.co.uk)



## Why Hume is our favourite churchman



RICHARD HARRIES

*The manner in which he refers to his death brings out why he will be missed so much by so many*

CARDINAL HUME'S announcement that he has terminal cancer is sad for him in one way: it means he will have little, if any time back in his beloved monastery. It is sad for us in many ways. The positive and graceful manner in which he refers to his death - giving thanks that he has time to prepare for it and for his peace of mind - brings out so well why he will be missed so much by so many. For Basil Hume is not only a monk but a man of God. He is palpably sincere in saying, as he has on so many occasions, that he would far rather be back at Ampleforth, with only the occasional game of squash to intrude upon a life of unceasing prayer and worship.

This spiritual priority in his life is reflected in the cardinal's ability to be at once simple and fresh in his teaching: both lucidity itself and arresting. He shares that quality with the late Michael Ramsey (Archbishop of Canterbury from 1961 to 1974). People sometimes lament that they would like to hear the old Gospel simplicities. Too often, however, they mean the clichés and platitudes they heard as a child. True simplicity is a quality

a person might achieve after a lifetime's searching thought and prayer and a great desire to be real. Basil Hume has this simplicity.

The cardinal has followed Catholic teaching in opposing women priests and his statements on same-sex relationships have been firmly traditional. Indeed, there is a current row over *Quest*, the Roman Catholic support group

for gays and lesbians, because they are no longer being allowed to advertise in the Westminster Diocesan Directory. There has also been a very serious decline in attendance during the cardinal's 23 years in office. Nevertheless, such is the affection in which he is held that the cardinal is not blamed for this in the way that Anglican church leaders are.

No one could doubt that Cardinal Hume is a convinced Catholic. At the same time he has worked with great courtesy and friendliness with other Christian leaders, as well as with people of other faiths. He shares with other Christian leaders and the Chief Rabbi presidency of the Council of Christians and Jews. He has not seen this in purely honorific terms. He has also managed to be political without ever being accused of being party political or of interfering where he had no business. This is partly because of his genuine commitment to the poor, vulnerable and homeless; partly because he has taken up individual cases rather than causes, as he did those convicted of the Irish bombings in the Seventies, and partly

because what he says arises out of Catholic social teaching.

A good example of this was the production of *The Common Good* by Catholic bishops before the last general election. On the day it was published, I found myself sitting in the train next to a man who was reading it. He turned out to be a Conservative MP. He told me that he had got halfway through and found nothing to disagree with so far. Later he told me that he did disagree with the paragraph about a minimum wage. Yet, at the same time it has been argued that all that is best in New Labour springs naturally out of this document's teaching.

When discussing House of Lords reform, a number of Peers have said to me that they would like Cardinal Hume to be a member. But there is both an obvious and a deeper reason why this has not happened. The obvious reason is that the Pope has forbidden priests to take part in political legislatures. Although this is primarily directed against left-wing priests in Latin America, it applies no less to membership of the Lords. The deeper reason - and here I speculate - is that part of the

appeal of the Roman Catholic Church in our society at the moment is that it is not part of the establishment. It is distanced from the much-disparaged Church of England. Never the less, the fact that people see a Cardinal Hume-shaped hole in the Lords is one of many signs of the respect in which he is held. This respect is firmly based on the perception that he is both a monk and a man of God (the two are not always the same). That is why his desire to be back living a life of prayer in his old monastery rings so true.

Cardinal Hume has changed the whole feel of English Catholicism. Before his time it seemed to be split into two entirely disparate worlds, the one fashionable, louche and literary - Evelyn Waugh, Graham Greene etc - and the other centred on the world of Irish immigrants, with all its stereotypes. The cardinal belongs to neither of these groups - his father was a distinguished doctor - and, by his totally unpretentious manner and spiritual priorities, has kept the Catholic Church firmly in the mainstream of English Christian life.

The author is Bishop Of Oxford

## Three steps to make the capital a car-free paradise



ANDREAS WHITTAM SMITH

*Step three: bike depots all over London where users would find shower and changing cubicles*

IN EUROPE, perhaps only in Europe, we are returning to cities. London has become a steadily more satisfactory place in which to live and work since I arrived in the Sixties. Now it has a buzz, just like New York. Moreover, for the past 10 years, lots of people have been thinking about cities and how to recover them from the motor car and make them more civilised. Momentum has been established. Experiments are taking place everywhere.

In France, Lyons has removed cars from most of its public squares and put them underground. In Bremen, a specifically car-free housing development has been built. There is a bit of parking for visitors and disabled drivers, but that is all. Instead there is a frequent bus service into the city centre and the money saved from dispensing with roads and garages has been put into bigger homes and better gardens. In Strasbourg, usage of public transport has increased by 30 per cent since a new tram system was introduced in 1994.

Opening this week in London is an exhibition of ideas for a car-free city: it takes place at the Oxo Tower Wharf and is the result of a competition organised by the Architecture Foundation, of which I am a trustee. It asked for visionary and innovative ideas for making central London car-free and for using the space thereby made available. Some 205 entries will be on display, among them practical, witty, eccentric and downright barny ideas from those who believe that banishing the car from city centres is a righteous crusade.

Actually, I think the beginning of wisdom is never to forget the massive advantages which car ownership provides. It is no use simply telling us all to get on our bikes. Unless we are fit, hardy, brave, not wishing to go somewhere with our

family, not shopping, not required to be smartly dressed, the advice is useless. One entry rightly asks: "If the car was unfolded and its desirable attributes were laid out across the city, would you leave your car at home?" The car gets you to work, carries your goods and takes your children to school. It is the yardstick against which all new ideas have to be measured.

Social changes already underway are helping. Another participant observes that homes are becoming workplaces, workplaces are becoming recreational meeting points, the bar a living room, the park a backyard. For many, the objective is a situation where every citizen has his or her home, shops, work and play within 10 minutes' walking distance of each other. In other words, to do without the car we must be more crowded together and planning regulations will have to be adjusted to allow mixed living and working space in city centres at higher densities of occupation. It is better

to be like Hong Kong than Welwyn Garden City.

We can also make better use of what we have got. My second favourite entry seeks to exploit personalised information technology to give city dwellers accurate and accessible information about all transport times and options within an individual's local area. "Londonet" is an idea for a digital network which will allow information about goods, services and travel to come to us rather than force us to go to the source. Through hand held devices, info kiosks and the like, Londonet would allow more intelligent planning of the day's tasks.

Making use of information technology is another proposal for tele-shopping. The first part is now familiar - you visit the website of your local supermarket or whatever, review prices and availability and place your orders and pay for them electronically. You would also receive catalogues "delivered by bike". Quite right. The goods are then sent to local pick-up centres where customers find electrically powered trolleys for conveying the shopping home.

I also like the suggestion put forward by a number of entrants that the underground railway network and adjacent tunnels should be used during the night for transporting freight and goods bound for central-London establishments. That is the beauty of competitions. You can just have the wizard idea and leave it to others to conjure up the considerable planning, problem-solving and investment needed to make sense of it. In similar fashion, the recommendation that service deliveries should be confined to the hours between 7pm and 10am would require a major reorganisation of supply chains.

However, making greater use of the bicycle gains most attention



Greater use of bikes is the most popular alternative to cars

from the competition entrants. In the first place, to the bicycle we can add rollerblades and skateboards. Here are the improvements. Step one: create dedicated routes for cyclists. There is a wonderful proposal for a suspended deck running alongside the south bank of the Thames from Greenwich to Battersea. The illustration of the deckway at night is a thing of beauty. Step two: cover some of these special cycle routes so that they are all-weather. Step three: place "bike depots" all over central London where users would find shower and changing cubicles, the water coming from filtered tanks kept topped up by rain from the roofs of adjacent buildings and the heating solar-generated, all very green. In addition, there would be lockers, secure bike racks and bike repair facilities available.

I can well imagine these depots, all aluminium and cloudy glass, sweaty cyclists going in through one door and smartly dressed office workers emerging from the other end, their bikes stored and repaired as they work, ready for pedalling

home in the evening. But I don't share the vision. If a substantial need for such facilities developed, surely they would most appropriately be created at the place of work. Companies would certainly find it a cheaper option to providing car parking places.

I have mentioned my second favourite idea; my favourite is this. You are walking along the street. It starts to rain. Immediately the rain canopies, which have sensed the increasing dampness of the air, begin to open up and, like giant umbrellas, spread their protective panels over your path.

You walk on, still dry, past the bike depots, and as you go you encounter shoppers propelling their electric trolleys full of parcels and packages. You stop to consult your Londonet gismo and find that the tram which takes you to Victoria Station will be coming shortly. On the other hand, you could catch a later train and use the time to do shopping, taking one of the free busses powered by compressed natural gas. Welcome to a car-free London.

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## Kosovo is echoed across the world

WRITERS  
ON THE  
WARWOLE SOYINKA  
President of the  
International  
Parliament of Writers  
launches a new series

THE ARMENIANS will recognise themselves in Kosovo. They understand only too well a world that turns a blind eye to the structured violation of its kind, and then goes further to insult the claims and duty of memory by the manipulation of language, inventing a syntax of denial in the testimonies of reality. They will be among the first to assert, and with unsalable truth, that because 1915 was denied, 1939 was made inevitable, and the once unthinkable of 1999 now confronts the conscience of the world in a wearisome familiar replay. So would the Tutsi of Rwanda, albeit employing different reference points: that because Europe ignored 1994 - at least until much too late, 1999 was made inevitable.

All victim groups guard certain milestones on the road to amnesia, but we do not really have first to be victims, only to cultivate a virtually spontaneous habit of associations, and the warnings they provide. It takes no effort for me, as example, to make one subjective equation: in my mind, Kosovo equals Ogóni. That has an unavoidable immediacy. The assault of the Serbian government on Kosovar writers and intellectuals, scientists and human rights advocates, the callous executions of their most notable figures, immediately bring to mind the gruesome spectacle of the Nigerian writer and activist, Ken Saro-wiwa, and his eight companions, dangling from the gallows. The silencing of individual voices, their routine storage as primary matter for elimination is only a symbolic summation of a wider project of mutilation, even annihilation, of both culture and heritage, of identity and creativity of which such voices are the most committed exponents.

Outside one's personal immediacies, Kosovo also equates the Sudan, where a brutal, intolerant regime has waged similar war against a defiant culture and identity for more than two decades, attempting to cleanse what it considers the stronghold of impurities in religious and cultural doctrines that define the self-perception of one section in opposition to another.

Kosovo, with the marked difference in organisation, systematic planning and focussed

Eldred Jones, helpless because now virtually blind - serve to remind us that the violence of power, even of putative power, constantly launches its primary offensive against the creative mind. Between the clinical methodicalness of a Milesovic and the juvenile leadership of the army of marauders that has turned Sierra Leone into a charnel house, we find that there is only a difference in the taste of morbidity.

The scarring of Kosovo is the brand of Cain, incongruous on the face of an elder and sage, that image of what a dying millennium should be, dignified and wise from age and experience. Those who are trained in these afflictions have responded as they must, mustering material aid to the hungry, the sick, the traumatised and the dispossessed. And it is the ultimate responsibility of institutions set up to punish crimes against humanity to pursue those who must be called to account for these deeds. In attempting to efface this new blemish we all seek accessible roles, expressions of solidarity and affirmations of common humanity.

For us in the field of culture and the arts - which are certainly mechanics also of self-recovery, identity and self-validation - we have accepted the task of salvaging what we can from the cultural rubble, snatching from zones of incapacitation those targeted, endangered species, the spokesmen and women, the interpreters of such menaced cultures. We have accepted a responsibility to establish and nurture havens of creative sanity throughout the world. It is a project that translates as snatching a seed out of a conflagration, out of the sludge of inundations, preserving it in a safe nursery not only for posterity, but in order to restore the now forbidden seedling to its habitual space of germination, where a new cycle of creativity can begin.

The International Parliament of Writers, created by a global network of authors in 1994 in answer to the persecution of writers, has no set stand on the Kosovan war. At the request of its members, however, it is producing a series of individual articles to give voice to their responses.

# Will they ever return home?



**NATASHA WALTER**

*The belief that Kosovar refugees should return to Kosovo once peace is restored is naïve*

WHEN ANY politician or journalist looks into a crystal ball for the outcome of this war, they see the same picture. At some point in the near future Milosevic will be contained, a peacekeeping force will move into Kosovo, and then the thousands upon thousands of refugees will go back to their towns and villages. If any refugee in other countries is offered to them in the meantime, the word temporary is always tacked on. The *Daily Mail*, in making an unexpected call for asylum in this country for Kosovars, made that very clear: "Britain should offer temporary refuge," it said. "But the sooner the Serbian killing machine is halted the sooner the refugees can start to return, as some day they must."

This attitude means, no doubt, that once the war ends, Britain and all its European partners will start deporting any Kosovar refugees that have slipped in, or cutting off all their means of support. In fact, this government would prefer that none of them get here in the first place. Sometimes ministers say that a few thousand might be allowed in, but more often they deny there is any need for refugees to leave those muddy and crowded camps. Last week, Tony Lloyd said: "Our present position is to keep the refugees in the region. If we are determined to make sure they can go home, they would have to be in the region so they can go back."

But the belief that once peace is declared the refugees should happily walk back to the killing fields of Kosovo is naïve. How easy is it to buy a ticket back to the street where your neighbour turned into your torturer, where you were forced on to a bus at gunpoint, where you saw friends and relations killed? After all, Bosnian refugees should have been returning home ever since the Dayton Agreement was signed in 1995. But of around 7,500 who entered Britain up until then, only a few hundred have returned. And it doesn't take much thought to understand why.

Yesterday, I spoke to Adela (not her real name), a 32-year-old journalist who used to live in Sarajevo and came to Britain in 1992. The process for her first application and appeal for refugee



An ethnic Albanian refugee girl is reunited with her father at the Brazde refugee camp in Macedonia yesterday, after weeks of separation

Attila Kisbenedek

status went on until 1995. "I had got myself a Croatian passport just in order to leave the country," she said, "and it took me three years to convince the Home Office that I was Bosnian. When I finally convinced them, they turned round and said, 'Well, there's peace in Bosnia now, you have to go home.' They would have deported me immediately but there weren't any flights into Sarajevo just then."

Adela doesn't want to go back, and who can blame her? "There's nothing to go back to," she says. "Everything is destroyed. No one is left there that I know. There is this idea that once you are a refugee you shouldn't be allowed any choice about where you should live, you can just be put on a bus and shipped off to where the governments want you. You stop being a person."

"If we were given a choice, we would go back if it was really safe. But how can we go back when things might fall apart again any time? If you have seen your neighbours and friends turn into enemies who try to kill you, how can you have the trust to go back? It sounds so ideal, that we should all go back. But

when you think about each individual who has to uproot again and go back to who knows what, you know that no westerner would want to go through that themselves."

Adela now wants to make her life in London, but she is living, like most asylum-seekers, in a state of suspended animation, moving from appeal to appeal, from one year's "exceptional leave to remain" to the next. "When you haven't lived a normal life for so long, you appreciate the little things - like getting up and going to work and coming home again, no guns, no bombs," she says longingly. Her longing to be able to put down stable roots is being thwarted by her inability to understand that many refugees will never be able to return to their homelands.

Another Bosnian refugee that I spoke to, a 34-year-old woman whom we'll call Anna, who lives in Coventry, is keener than Adela to return one day - but sees that that day might still be years or decades into the future. "A friend of mine went back last year," she said heavily. "And her child walked off to a mine and had his leg blown off."

Anna was held for months in a

Serb detention camp in 1992, only protected from repeated rapes, she believes, because she was five months pregnant when she was captured. "How would you feel going back?" she says. "Our homes are completely destroyed, our town is now a ghost town. We need some security. I can't go back until Bosnia is truly Bosnian, not half Serbian. But if that day ever comes, how will my children feel about going back? Two of them were born here. I feel now I must put their happiness and future before mine."

Although I resent comparisons between Serbian actions and the Holocaust, this realisation that refugees should not be forced to walk back to their old homes as soon as a peace is declared came home to me vividly when I recently made a trip to Germany. It was the first time in my life I had ever visited Germany, the country my Jewish grandparents fled in 1939, after my grandfather had been imprisoned by the Gestapo. My grandparents were lucky - they got to stay in England for the rest of their lives. But in Hamburg, their old hometown, I met a cousin of theirs who had been

given no choice but to return to Hamburg once the war had ended. Flora Neumann is a tiny, elegant woman of 88. A survivor of Auschwitz, she landed up in Belgium at the end of the war and then went back to Hamburg in 1947, to live next door to the Germans who had stood by while Hamburg was made Judenrein.

She didn't have much choice. "We were stateless," she explained slowly to me, looking back down more than 50 hard years. "We couldn't stay in Belgium, because they wouldn't give us work permits. England wouldn't admit us. Life was really hard in Palestine then, and our health was bad. So we came back to Hamburg, and stayed."

But it was hardly an easy choice. "I have never felt for one moment since then that Hamburg is a home," she says. Her son is always telling her that when she is dead, he will be off to Israel. Amazingly, she has managed to confront the past, giving lectures about the Holocaust in schools and colleges. "Some of the younger generation will see it," she says. "They send me flowers and cards after I speak to

them. But you still can't discuss it with older people. And even with the young ones, often they look away when I talk. They don't want to think about it, they say, why should we think about it, it wasn't our fault."

I couldn't believe the courage of this frail-looking woman who had faced down the ghosts of such horror, who had lived out the rest of her long life in the very streets where her mother and sister, aunts, uncles, cousins, had been collected up for the trains that took them to Theresienstadt and Auschwitz.

But, talking to her, I also felt strongly that there are acts of courage that no one should be forced into. As Adela says, refugees are people too, who must make free choices about their futures. If Kosovars don't want to stay in filthy camps on state borders, they should be allowed to move on into other European countries. And we have to accept the fact that asylum may be forever, and recast our ideas about what might happen at the end of this war. When they really feel it's safe, refugees will go home eagerly. Until then, they must be allowed to stay wherever they have fled.

## RIGHT OF REPLY

ANDREW SMITH



The Employment Minister responds to our recent leader article on help for Clyde shipbuilders

IT IS nonsense to suggest that this Government doesn't take the position of older unemployed workers seriously. You claim that we are not helping older workers because we have not enacted legislation to stop discrimination, but how would such legislation have any bearing on Kvaerner's decision to sell its interest in Govan and Clydebank?

Not only is the Government already taking action to help Clydebank, we are also tackling unfair age discrimination in employment. Public consultation, including bodies representing older workers and employers, has shown that a Code of Practice is a good way forward in changing attitudes so that employers believe that older workers can and do add value to their business. Hence we will be launching the Code in May and its impact will be fully evaluated to inform any future plans for legislation.

Also, it is simply untrue to say that the New Deal is doing little to help the over-fifties. More than 26,000 people aged 50 and over have started on the New Deal for people aged 25-plus which provides extra help to find work. That is why in last month's Budget we announced still more New Deal help for the over-fifties. People out of work for six months or more and aged over 50 will have access to employment guidance from a personal adviser, jobsearch support, a training grant of up to £750 and a cash credit on entering employment of up to £50 a week for a year. This will help guarantee a minimum income of £170 a week for the first year in full-time employment. Pilots start in October: the programme goes national early next year.

These practical steps will provide a foundation for tackling age discrimination in employment. But the Government cannot change attitudes by itself. Employers and individuals also have a role to play.

## Great minds made simpler

THERE IS a long tradition in British publishing of self-education books, dating back to the Teach Yourself series of the 1940s, designed for the autodidact or that elusive "intelligent general reader". This re-issued and enlarged series in comic-strip form aims to continue that tradition, although some have queried whether, in an age of proliferating universities, there is still anyone left who has fallen through the educational net.

The obvious danger for any such series is of falling between two stools. If the level is made too simple, it will not satisfy readers who already have a nodding acquaintance with the subject; if more advanced, there is the danger of losing readers and failing to qualify as an introduction. Such a series must achieve four objectives: it must hit the optimum point between ease and difficulty; it must provide a lucid account, avoiding all jargon; it must avoid all *portis pris* or hidden agendas; and it should stimulate the reader to tackle further books.

How do the first titles in Icon's re-

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designed series stack up against those criteria? In a very mixed bunch, one can identify four categories: those that are almost completely successful; those that are partly so; those that fail through having "lost the plot"; and dire, politically-correct products tricked out with rebarbative jargon.

In the first category, one would have to award pride of place to the pioneering comic-strip introduction to Marx, written by the Mexican cartoonist Rius and first published in 1976. But certain volumes do not fall far short of his standard. In this category one would place *Psychology* by Nigel C Benson and *Freud* by Richard Appignanesi and Oscar Zarate. They give the required thumbnail sketch and, in intellectual terms, satisfy Noël

Coward's prescription for the actor: they come on, say their lines, do not bump into the furniture, and get off.

Only slightly less successful is *Mathematics*, a tripartite effort by Ziauddin Sardar, Jerry Ravetz and Boris Van Loon. One's only, tiny reservation is that the authors slightly forget their readership in the middle and wander into some quite difficult formulae. One could, however, defend this slight deviation from lucidity on the grounds of giving the reader a flavour of real mathematics.

All these books deal with clear-cut material but with *Feminism*, by Susan Alice Watkins, Marisa Rueda and Marta Rodriguez, we encounter the first real difficulty, in an otherwise useful and interesting guide. This is that



Albert Einstein, Bertrand Russell and Karl Jung

the concept is an umbrella word covering very disparate subject matter. This problem becomes acute in *Post-modernism* by Richard Appignanesi and Chris Garratt - the portmanteau concept par excellence. The author struggles to make sense of a notion so broad, it can cover anything from male stripping to the Millennium bug. Even so, this is a valiant attempt to be even-handed.

The problem of bias makes its appearance in *Jung* by Maggie Hyde and Michael McGuinness. The writer, Maggie Hyde, is an astrologer and committed Jungian, and she makes what is marginal to Jung's theory the centrepiece of her exposition. Jung was interested in the paranormal and made a number of tentative suggestions on such matters as ghosts, astrology and even UFOs. Maggie Hyde elevates this aspect, which even many of Jung's admirers are dubious about, to a position of centrality. This gives a very distorted view of the Swiss psychologist. The flows merely underline the general truth that the author of an introductory guide should be a detached observer and not a player in the drama. We do not expect an objective view of *Sartre: Private Rites* if we ask Tom Hanks for a critique.

*Eisenstein*, by Joseph Schwartz and Michael McGuinness, is a good ex-

ample of the partially successful introduction. Schwartz wastes too much time in unnecessary scene-setting, giving us a potted history of the German electrochemical industry. One wishes he would cut to the chase and when he does, his exposition of the 1905 Special Theory of Relativity is very good. But, displaying a woeful sense of proportion, he does not deal at all with the 1915 General Theory. Those who want a proper introduction to that are advised to turn to Bertrand Russell's *The ABC of Relativity* and *The Principles of Matter*, where Russell manages to convey a lucid understanding of the world of gravitation-tensors, differential equations and all.

Finally, disaster. Postfeminism by Sophia Phoca and Rebecca Wright is what they call in Ireland a "thundering disgrace", written by a gender warrior in a dreadful esoteric jargon, without regard to grammar, syntax or the most elementary requirements of style. The final verdict on this series must be that the editors need to establish more quality control, to jettison the feeblest among their contributors and, above all, to find people who can write plain English.

FRANK MCLYNN

### MONDAY POEM

VENICE  
BY NOEL COWARD

Last Wednesday on the Piazza  
Near San Marco's trecento Duomo  
I observed una grassa ragazza  
With a thin, Middle Western uomo.

He was swatting a piccola mosca  
She was eating a chocolate gelato  
While an orchestra played (from La Tosca)  
A flat violin obbligato.

They stared at a dusty piccione  
They spoke not a single parola  
She ordered some Te con limone  
He ordered an iced Coca-Cola.

And while the tramanto del sole  
Set fire to the Grande Canale  
She scribbled haphazard parole  
On glazed cartoline postale.

Our poems today and tomorrow come from Noël Coward's 'Collected Verse', published by Methuen (£8.99) to mark the centenary of Coward's birth

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# Bobby Roberts

TWO MONTHS before his death, Bobby Roberts senior was handed the first-ever British circus "Oscar", for a Lifetime of Circus Achievement, presented to him at the International Circus Reunion by the showmen's newspaper, *The World's Fair*. It commemorated a career in the sawdust ring which began three-quarters of a century ago as a boy rider and clown, culminating in his having served for many years as Honorary President of the Association of Circus Proprietors of Great Britain.

For almost four decades, Bobby Roberts and his brother Tommy ran one of the most popular family travelling circuses in the British Isles, and his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren are continuing family traditions with their own shows. In their early days, the Roberts brothers were as well known "on the halls" throughout the circuit of British variety theatres as they were in circuses.

Their father Paul Otto, a continental tumbler, came to Britain early in the 20th century, and married Mary Fossett, one of the sisters of a famous circus proprietor, "Sir" Robert Fossett, with whose show he appeared. Bobby was born in 1912 at Kingshorpe, near Northampton, where the Fossetts show had its winter home, his brother arriving two years later. Called Robert Otto Fossett, Bobby later changed his surname to Roberts, as did Tommy, and it was with Robert Brothers Circus that they later gained fame.

Bobby's first apprenticeship in the circus was as a juvenile clown, and by the time he was 11 he had a solo bareback riding act at Sir Robert Fossett's Circus. The brothers were both versatile, and appeared in riding acts, aerial numbers and in an acrobatic horizontal bar act with which they later toured "the halls".

At the beginning of the 1930s, they worked in their parents' own small tenting circus, known as Otto's Victory Circus, then with Rossaire's Circus, and eventually joined Chapman's Circus, one of the leading shows of the era. With Chapman they toured, and appeared on the stage in Chapman's extensive winter tours in the many variety theatres Britain then possessed. Chapman adopted the title "Hip-Hip-Zoo-Ray" for his stage ventures, and when they launched their own stage show later on, the Roberts brothers took the same title, and the same colour scheme, red and yellow, for their tenting circus.

As speciality work had taken them much into the theatre, it seemed natural that both brothers should marry music-hall artistes. Bobby in 1941 taking as his bride Kitty Mednick, a member of a family musical act, the Norman Sisters and Michael. Their first son, Bobby junior, was born the following year.

With their wives, Bobby and Tommy worked at the Blackpool Tower Circus and the Blackpool Palace Theatre in 1942 before the brothers went into the National Fire Service, being stationed in Edinburgh. After being discharged 18 months later, Bobby ended up with Harry Coady's Circus before joining the stage tour of Don Ross's Colossal Combined Circuses, Ross being the husband and agent of the musical star Gerie Gitana.

Early in 1944, with a partner,

Billy Mack, Bobby and Tommy decided to form their own travelling circus to take entertainment to wartime entertainment-starved audiences. It opened under the improbable title of Otto Brothers Madras Express and Tropical Circus, and one of their biggest problems proved to get enough petrol coupons to move the show during wartime rationing.

By this time the brothers had branched out into animal training and the title was changed to Robert Brothers' Mammoth Zoo-Circus; the arrival of their first elephant, from Dudley Zoo in 1946, was a turning point. Their show fared particularly well in Scotland, and soon they were producing animal acts for other shows, for Don Ross, Captain Prince-Coxe, Billy Smart and Sanger.

Later they would send their animals to prestigious engagements at Blackpool Tower, Belle Vue Manchester and the Kelvin Hall in Glasgow and to many of Europe's leading tenting circuses. Bobby Roberts specialised in training horses, ponies, elephants, dogs and llamas, while Tommy also became known for wild animals. In the summer they travelled under canvas and in winter the Robert Brothers' Hip-Hip-Zoo-Ray Circus was featured in all the leading variety theatre circuits, and they were soon employing a large number of animal trainers, clowns and speciality acts, many of whom remained in their service for many years.

In 1950, Bobby Roberts saved the life of one of his trainers, Carl Fischer, when a lion jumped on his back, but unfortunately neither brother was on hand to save the life of another lion trainer, the Frenchman René Ruellet, who had rashly gone into the cage with his animals before becoming fully conversant with them. Such incidents are, happily, rare in the circus world and the Roberts Brothers enjoyed decades of success and few mishaps. One strange thing happened to them on the Continent when visiting a circus. They were arrested by police who believed them to be the Russian spies Burgess and Maclean.

Bobby and Kitty's daughter Maureen was born in 1951 and by the early 1950s they were not only producing a tenting circus and a stage show that played the Moss Empires' circuit, but also had a summer circus at the Festival Gardens in Battersea Park and another at Douglas, Isle of Man. In the 1950s, Bobby's first son was making his debut in the

*The Roberts brothers travelled in many guises. During the Second World War they went under the improbable title of Otto Brothers Madras Express and Tropical Circus*

ring. In 1961, Bobby handed over to his elder son the presentation of the elephants, and Bobby junior was later to appear with them several times before the Queen and the Royal Family.

In 1966 the Roberts' show was engaged for the Twentieth Century-Fox film *Dr Dolittle* at Castle Combe, but the filming of the circus scenes was finally cancelled and the show was not to appear in it. In addition to their circus activities, the Roberts oper-

ated a wildlife park at Thorney Abbey at the end of the 1960s. Their circus was the first to appear at the Roundhouse in Camden Town, London, but the season there was marred by a female high-wire artist's falling some 30 feet to the ring, sustaining a broken arm and leg.

By the early 1970s, they had a dozen or more elephants and a string of horses, ponies and exotic animals, more than enough for the show's own needs. Its engagements at prestigious circuses in England

draw for Bertram Mills' Circus since the 1930s. Bobby and Tommy pulled off a significant coup in 1978, while their animal acts were appearing at the Brighton Centre Circus in Sussex. Billy Smart's Circus, after a quarter-century of television shows for the BBC, had defected to ITV, and the brothers were able to obtain the lucrative contract for themselves. Christmas and Easter television recordings made theirs a household name: soon they were also provid-

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Bobby, left, and Tommy Roberts on a Robert Brothers programme, 1962

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# Jacqueline Guy

PICTURE RESEARCH is a special art, demanding creativity to conceive and match illustrations as commentaries and enhancements to the texts they attach to, and then dogged hard work to track them down. Jackie Guy, who had a career of over 30 years as picture researcher and art editor to the magazine *History Today*, was a peerless practitioner in the field.

Hers was a classic tale of the autodidact. Born Jacqueline Needham in Chester at the start of the Blitz, with a convent schooling that for all its harsh regime gave her a solid grounding in the three Rs, she started work as a secretary in solicitors' offices in Chester, and then got a similar job when making the move south.

London in the Swinging Sixties made an ideal growth hormone: to the end of her life she responded enthusiastically to the stimulations metropolitan life and culture could offer. The latest play at the Barbican would be trenchantly discussed by her over coffee at her desk the next day - and it was entirely appropriate that her last outing, 10 days before she died, was to see the Ian McKellen film *Gods and Monsters*.

The other crucial conjunction of time and place was her joining in 1968 the history magazine launched by Brendan Bracken in 1951 on the back of the *Financial Times*, and then still presided over by the founding editorial double act of Alan Hodge and Peter Quennell. The 11th Earl of Drogheda, *History Today's* patrician patron at the FT during those years, remarked in a 1979 festschrift for Peter Quennell that "*History Today* was fortunate from the start in its choice of intelligent young ladies who had the task of selecting illustrations for every issue". Jackie Guy was one of them.

Her first "cover" (which always illustrated one of the articles inside - as is still true to this day) was of an imposing and colourful effigy of Margaret, Countess of Lennox - commissioned from a dramatic overhead angle that must have given the photographer pause for thought to life and limb. As she grew into the job so casually acquired as *History Today's* picture researcher and expanded her skill and knowledge in the 1970s, Guy took full advantage of the generous budget then available via the FT empire to commission ambitious photography - and to send in to major museums, churches and galleries as was then possible to do, her own photographer. The core of *History Today's* own picture archive now stands as tribute to that foresight and to the skills of photographers such as John Freeman and A.F. Kersting.

Guy was never parochial about the agencies and picture libraries she scoured on the magazine's behalf. As well as the principal UK outlets, including the extraordinary Aladdin's cave of the Mansell Collection in Earls Court where she enjoyed unrivalled access as one of the family, she used Continental ones - Giraudon in France, Arxiu Mas in Spain, Ullstein in Germany, Alinari in Italy - and increasingly, after 1970, she used the magazine as her sixth editor in 1985 and embarked on broadening our American history coverage, US ones as well.

But she was also prepared to seek out hidden gems - and to unearth for *History Today's* world-wide readership a manuscript illustration or object nestling for decades in a little-known library or museum was a constant source of delight and renewal to her.

Her early years with *History Today* were key for some of the best "old school" values she absorbed during the reign of Hodge and Quennell - commitment to clarity and elegance in word as well as image. She could be formidably and justly harsh (when proof-reading for illustration ideas) on historical jargon and gobbledegook: many an author's text was improved as a result. A Mogul miniature, a Gillray or Rowlandson cartoon, or a great history painting like Benjamin West's *Death of General Wolfe* which I remember her showing me with beatific delight as a proposal (accepted) for the cover of a 1995 issue - these were some of her "favourite things".

She had a preference for articles that were strong on chronology and narrative and was innately suspicious of some of the sociological meandering of modern academics. As such she provided the editors who came after Quennell and Hodge with a valuable template in balancing *History Today's* scholarship with its continuing appeal to the ordinary reader.

Despite that innate conservatism, there was nothing stuffy about Jackie Guy - and no edge either. She treated the most distinguished historian or public figure writing for the magazine or nervous graduate student or amateur enthusiast preparing their first article with the same courtesy and directness when teasing out ideas for illustrations.

As a colleague she could be sharp, tempestuous and occasionally exasperatingly resistant to innovation - I remember that when I suggested we illustrate an article about the Vietnam War on the cover with a helicopter photo-clip from the film *Apocalypse Now* she initially responded as if it were the sin against the Holy Ghost.

But that intensity sprang from her deep commitment to the values and quality of the magazine. Once she was convinced that you were not violating those values, she came on board. It was entirely typical that in later years she cited the Vietnam cover as one of *History Today's* most effective and responded enthusiastically to the challenges of series that might demand a vintage Fifties American Coca-Cola ad or even a contemporary cartoon on the poll tax.

The 1980s brought Guy both professional and personal upheaval. Her husband Paul, whose early dates with her had included the greyhound races at Wimbledon and who had a distinguished career as a journalist at ITN and elsewhere, died suddenly and shockingly, of pancreatic cancer. Theirs had been a close and very happy partnership; his loss left her bereft. Over that same period *History Today* moved in uncharted waters: cast adrift from the security of Longman and the Pearson group to independent ownership in a Soho garret - 94 stairs and no lift - in Berwick Street.

Although, thanks to enlightened owners, the model of independence was to prove triumphantly successful, Guy played an important role in its early survival; as the lookout for potential new proprietors in the first place and then having rapidly taken on new responsibilities as production editor, monthly liaison with printers and typesetters, driving hard and necessary bargains, which continued through the years ahead. She also brought in a journalist friend to help create a customised subscription programme - in a time when off-the-shelf computer packages were unknown - safeguarding an international base whose loyalty and expansion was to prove essential to prosperity from the mid-1980s onwards.

It was hardly surprising then that Jackie Guy became the keeper of the flame for *History Today* - able to retail wonderful raffish anecdotes of Peter Quennell but also to sustain that sense of family in a small office. It was always Guy who had ideas for the New Year party location or chivvied presents into an office Christmas lucky bag. She was generous of her time to contributors - convivial and social qualities well on display when we developed collaboration with the Russian history magazine *Rodina* and its editors were invited to supper at her Kensington flat. She had a great gift for friendship.

She drove herself hard - and responded to being driven hard. The products were wonderful special issues, like the Age of Chivalry issue produced in tandem with the mammoth Royal Academy exhibition in 1987 and featuring many of its choicest exhibits, or the remarkable tripartite issue produced in 1995 for the 50th anniversary of the end of the Second World War - for which Guy juggled illustrations, texts in translation and common illustrations flowing in from the magazine's German and Russian counterparts.



Guy: keeper of the flame

Her catchphrase was so often "I'm awfully worried about..." as she set out in pursuit of cover ideas or a particularly arcane subject, but she never needed to worry; regularly month by month she would produce up to 200-250 illustrations from which an eventual 50 or 60 were selected - varied, intriguing and always appropriate.

Throughout the illnesses of her last year, she carried on with true grit and was active in the office until 10 days before she died. Knowing that she had at last to give up her beloved vocation was hard indeed - but tempered with pride justly expressed in a letter she sent just weeks previously - "It's impossible not to feel honoured to have been involved in something so worthwhile."

It is almost impossible too to believe that no longer at around 4.30 in the afternoon with *History Today's* stairs creak to her entry: the sound of great shopping bags of books, photographs and prints being hauled up, the fruits of a day's trawling in the city she loved. Her monument lies in the nearly 400 covers and tens of thousands of illustrations in which Jackie Guy lives still, to enrich generations of history lovers.

GORDON MARSDEN  
Jacqueline Mary Needham, art editor and picture researcher; born Chester 12 November 1940; married 1968 Paul Guy (died 1983); died London 9 April 1999.

# Giulio Einaudi

TO HIS critics, the publisher Giulio Einaudi was a pawn of the Italian Communist Party. But, writing after Einaudi's death, the literary historian Alberto Asor Rosa placed this giant of Italy's independent publishing world in a very different light: "When the stupid accusations of subservience to the Communist Party's cultural policy die down, it will become perfectly clear that Giulio Einaudi was not a product of Italy's left-wing culture: on the contrary, he created it himself."

He began doing so in his early twenties when, with Mussolini's Fascists firmly in power, he abandoned his medical studies at Turin University to work alongside his father Luigi, an eminent economist and editor of the liberal, anti-Fascist magazine *Riforma Sociale* ("Social Reform"). The young Giulio had been educated at D'Azeglio high school in Turin, a hotbed of anti-Fascist sentiment, and by his father whose staunch defence of civil liberties throughout the Fascist period would lead to his election in 1948 as first president of the newborn Italian republic.

Little wonder, then, that Giulio Einaudi saw fit to pad out *Riforma Sociale* with a cultural supplement, edited by Cesare Pavese, which was deemed so subversive by the Mussolini regime that the whole operation was closed down and the



Einaudi: "The more heated the argument, the more fun he had"

staff arrested in 1935. Into prison with Einaudi (who was released after a few weeks) went colleagues who would become the brightest stars in Italy's post-war literary and philosophical firmament: Vittorio Foa, Massimo Mila, Carlo Levi, Pavese and Norberto Bobbio.

By that time, a handful of books had appeared under the label of Giulio Einaudi Editore, with its ostrich trademark which remains the Einaudi logo to this day. The first was a translation by Luigi Einaudi of Henry A. Wallace's *What America Wants* in 1933. In a delicate balance-

ing act which kept Einaudi's publications just on the right side of what the regime's censors would tolerate, non-fiction would be followed throughout the remaining Fascist period by translations of foreign classics from Goethe to Defoe, by annotated editions of Italian classics, and, in 1941, by contemporary fiction, beginning with Pavese's *Poesi tuoi* ("Your Countries").

With the Second World War over, Einaudi's shoestring operation mushroomed to fill the void left by the demise of pro-regime publishing houses. Anything savouring even mildly of the right was anathema in Italy's post-Mussolini anti-Fascist fervour. Einaudi stepped in to give the nation the left-wing renaissance it craved, and with the same unerring eye for spotting talented youngsters which he was to retain to the end, he gave publishing breaks to newcomers like Natalia Ginsburg and Elsa Morante, Italo Calvino and Primo Levi. As his father took his place in the presidential palace, Einaudi assumed the role of elder statesman of the Italian literary world.

Known as "il principe" ("the prince") for his distinguished looks and his refusal to brook any *lèse-majesté* from his employees (only Pavese and Italo Calvino ever dared contradict him), Einaudi was depicted in innumerable anecdotes as

an insufferable snob. Crossing into Switzerland with a band of Italian partisans during the civil war which followed Mussolini's downfall in 1943, one such story goes, Einaudi haughtily demanded tea with a slice of lemon from the first impoverished peasants whose hovel he came across over the border.

In Wednesday editorial meetings, which soon became legendary, Einaudi would savage sub-editors whose work he considered not up to his own standards which were "very high: in fact, maniacal", according to a long-time employee, Guido Davico Bonino, who came in for "frighteningly aggressive" treatment on more than one occasion.

He would set one adviser against another in what the better-disposed amongst his staff would justify as a bid to reap literary benefit from the creative tension which resulted. Others were less generous. "He really enjoyed making his people jealous of each other," said the writer Carlo Fruttero. "He loved arguments, and the more heated they were, the more fun he had," said Corrado Vivanti, another Einaudi stalwart.

Einaudi's high-handed manner extended to finances. "For 50 years, he lived on the verge of economic crisis," wrote the ex-banker Nerio Nesi of his troublesome former client. When Nesi refused yet an-

other bail-out in the early Eighties, a "frank exchange of views" took place, which reverberated for years afterwards. Nesi recalled, Einaudi was forced to stand trial, ordered to declare bankruptcy, and condemned to seeing his publishing house pass into the hands of one of the industrial giants he so despised. In 1994, the company was taken over by Mondadori, a publishing conglomerate controlled by the right-wing former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi.

In 1983, as the final financial storm was brewing over the independent Einaudi publishing house, its founder's reaction was true to character: he produced what he described as "a perfect book", a complete catalogue of titles published by the company since 1933. The catalogue is a near-exhaustive list of the greatest writers of post-war Italy.

Of the pre-war generation which worked with Einaudi from the start, "only he and I were still going", recalled the political philosopher Norberto Bobbio. "And he was forever boasting to me that he was by far the best of the two."

ANNE HANLEY  
Giulio Einaudi, publisher, translator and writer; born Turin, Italy 12 January 1912; married Renata Aldrovandi (sister children); died Rome 5 April 1999.



## MANDELSON: THE BIOGRAPHY



He has been described variously as the Architect of New Labour and The Prince Of Darkness. Peter Mandelson is one of the most controversial and complex political figures of our age, and in the first extract from a new biography, Donald Macintyre reveals the bitter clash that threatened to blow the party asunder and traces the roots of Mandelson's fall



## Anatomy of a 'Titanic feud'

It was at Chewton Glen, a five-star hotel in Hampshire, early in September 1994 and less than two months after Tony Blair became party leader, that some of New Labour's finest minds assembled in total secrecy to discuss the challenges ahead. On the evening before the brainstorming session, Blair, Gordon Brown and Peter Mandelson dined together with the express intention of deciding how the party would now be organised. Brown had arrived with several proposals for changes to personnel – including the installation of Michael Wills as deputy general secretary at Watworth Road. Blair was not keen on the idea, and Brown, expecting Mandelson to show the kind of support which would have been automatic a year or two earlier, was disappointed instead to find that he was on his own. Mandelson argued with his characteristic caution that more time for thought was needed.

After Blair went to bed, Brown and Mandelson stayed up for a nightcap. According to an account subsequently given by Mandelson in confidence to a third party, Brown asked him why he hadn't backed him. He replied that he was not opposing Brown but that "we had to think things through carefully". Brown had argued that if they were both in agreement, Blair would always take their advice. Mandelson then said that his loyalty to Brown was not in question, but that he was of going "to get into some sort of alliance to outmanoeuvre Tony", at which point, he insisted, Brown replied: "Choose for yourself" – or words to that effect.

Mandelson dated the breach in his close bond with Brown not from the leadership crisis in May when Mandelson eventually threw his support behind Blair, but from that conversation in September. This, at least, has been more than partially correct. Relations had been under severe strain since the tensions over the leadership contest which had followed John Smith's death. Nevertheless, it had seemed to Mandelson, until the Chewton Glen conference in September, that the relationship was repairable; it was severely threatened but not yet fully ruptured. But Mandelson now interpreted Brown as demanding a degree of personal loyalty which would outweigh, in relatively rare moments of dispute, his loyalty to the leader. The great Machiavellian had behaved in rather an un-Machiavellian way.

Had Mandelson simply agreed at his point to back Brown, then the next two-and-a-half years might have gone more smoothly than they did. Indeed, when Mandelson told Blair about the conversation a year or so later, Blair suggested that this was what he should have done.

By the beginning of 1995, according to one of his closest members of staff, Blair himself would repeatedly – "sometimes several times a day" – ask "Why, oh why, can't my two best people get on with each other?" Although the troubles between Brown and Mandelson did not fully surface publicly until May 1996, they had certainly been working Blair since the turn of the year of 1994-5.

The first real clash came over the structure of the campaign for the 1997 General Election. While Mandelson willingly ceded overall strategic command to Brown, Blair was determined that he should nevertheless have a key role. Jonathan Powell, Blair's chief of staff, used all his considerable tact and diplomatic skill to bring about an agreement, but a prolonged power struggle then ensued between Mandelson and Brown over just how key this role would be. The argument raged on throughout the spring and summer.

So much so that at one point Mandelson wrote to Blair suggesting that the attempt at reuniting the two of them be abandoned. Saying that he had been "thinking hard" about "my position in our weird and wonderful firmament", he added: "Whatever the long-term prospect of Gordon reconciling himself to my role in relation to you, I do not believe this is going to happen now. Forcing it is going to aggravate the situation. I fear it will produce further confrontations between the two of you, which are very destructive to your future relationship with him, which is the pivotal one for the success of your government."

Mandelson also touched on a problem which went further than his



Peter Mandelson appeared to be unable on occasion to contain his frustration at what he saw as his rejection by Gordon Brown

relations with Brown: that of being part of the inner leadership circle while holding down a relatively junior front-bench job. "From your point of view, it is difficult and embarrassing to cast the 'leader's little helper' in a way that is acceptable to everybody else. But I think neither of us has confronted the barrier to this of my being an MP, a new one, with all the sensitivities and hierarchical implications of this... There is no question of me ceasing to act as your friend and adviser. I am always thinking of you. I will do anything you ask of me. You are the most important thing to have happened for our party and the country. But we have to face up to the fact that we cannot go on like this."

It would now, Mandelson suggested, be better for him to pursue his career in a "more normal way". Not for the first, nor last time, Blair patiently talked through Mandelson's concerns, persuaded him to stay in the team, and continued the daunting search for a way to get round the problem.

The 10-month wrangle over Brown's and Mandelson's role in election planning was finally resolved in October 1995. But this did little to help Mandelson's relations with Brown, which were already outstandingly dysfunctional, given that they shared a common purpose. At meetings, Mandelson would complain, Brown frequently behaved as if he wasn't there. If, indeed, he responded at all to points made by Mandelson, he addressed his remarks solely to Blair, or more time-consuming, intimated that he would discuss a particular issue with him later, when Mandelson and Alastair Campbell were not present. Brown, for his part, was apparently worried that, if he had persuaded Blair on a particular course of action, Mandelson might then pervert the contrary view just for the sake of it.

Nor was it all one-sided. Mandelson remained convinced that Brown could not, or would not, accept his own independent advisory role. But one occasional observer of

Mandelson's behaviour at larger meetings, chaired by Brown, said he had "got away with murder" in his acid and contemptuous asides.

The issues of substance which divided Brown and Mandelson were real, but by no means as many as the chronic tensions between them might have suggested. One was the question of a new top rate of tax. From 1995, Brown was certainly in favour of this, and Blair instinctively against it. Mandelson, with the strong backing of Philip Gould (a key Blair consultant), opposed it because he was convinced, like Blair, that it would send to the voters a subliminal signal that Labour

the Shadow Chancellor. But it was impossible to escape the conclusion that the differences could have been resolved with much less bitterness if there had not been more emotional factors rooted in the traumatic events of 1994.

In Mandelson's view, Brown could not accept that "Being Peter" meant that Mandelson's duty was to provide Blair with independent advice. Yet Mandelson appears to have been unable on occasions to contain his feelings of frustration and anger at what he saw as his rejection by Brown. When he felt slighted yet again by Brown at a meeting on 9 May 1996, something snapped.

that he had actually been bleeped by someone at Millbank, and had gone out to return the call, inadvertently allowing the door to slam behind him. In a sense it hardly mattered, because he did not return, leaving his colleagues temporarily silent and nonplussed.

En route to an international conference in Prague, however, Mandelson had fanned the flames with a letter, dated 9 May, resigning as election manager at Millbank and, in effect, as a member of Blair's inner circle.

Dear Tony,  
I am very sorry that your meet-

we have reached the glass ceiling. I wish your life and situation were simpler and I wish things could have worked out differently with our arrangements.  
Love as ever,  
Peter.

At the weekend, Mandelson appeared, to those in Prague, to be his normal self. At the British ambassador's residence he had his first and only encounter with Margaret Thatcher. It was a brief and slightly stiff meeting. Mandelson told the journalist Robert Harris later that month that the baroness, excited as usual to be in a rapidly changing Eastern Europe, had impressed him with the power of her belief: "Why can't we believe like that?" he asked. On the Saturday evening, several participants, including the journalist Anne McElvoy, left the official mayor's reception early and wandered, at Mandelson's suggestion, into a disco, where the Prince of Darkness so thrilled McElvoy with his dancing prowess that she wrote about it in *The Spectator*. "Before long we were the John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John of the gathering. The member for Hartlepool's taut thigh muscles were locked behind mine as we flung this way and that." Not every member of Labour's leadership team was anti-fun, she concluded.

Back in London, however, Mandelson's colleagues were not having so much fun. Not only did Mandelson cause consternation through his departure from the meeting on Thursday but the tensions between Brown and Mandelson had finally – and coincidentally – become public. On 11 May, the Saturday morning of Mandelson's trip to Prague, Philip Webster, *The Times*'s political editor, led his paper with a report, clearly well sourced, saying that Blair was making considerable efforts to resolve the chronic split between Brown and Mandelson.

Blair subsequently pinpointed this as his worst moment yet since taking over as leader. Nor would he accept that Brown was exclusively

to blame, telling Mandelson later that it was "six of one and half a dozen of the other". In any case, Blair had already made it clear to Mandelson on several occasions that he had to suppress his emotions in response to what he saw as Brown's persistent refusal to accept him as a colleague; he would be risking a place in the sun if he did not "make it work". Blair now wrote Mandelson a sombre letter: this was "indeed a serious situation", he said, much as Mandelson had been his "rock and comforter", the team was now in a "dangerous" plight and "simply cannot continue in this way". Brown and Mandelson seemed "more desirous of victory over each other than of trying to make it work" and that he could not tolerate walkouts. While he acknowledged that it could be difficult to work with Brown, he added: "We are not players in some Greek tragedy. We have one overriding responsibility to deliver an election victory, and though it may seem pious, it is just not fair to all those people who really want such a victory and are working for it, to be casualties of some Titanic but ultimately irrelevant personality feud... Have you any conception of how despairing it is for me when the two people that have been closest to me for more than a decade, and who in their different ways are the most brilliant minds of their generation will not lay aside personal animosity and help me win?" He had no wish to lose one of his closest friends, but if the situation could not change then it would have to end. The subliminal message was stark: unless Mandelson could reach an accommodation with Brown, Blair would indeed have to accept his "resignation".

Having received Blair's letter on his return from Prague on the Sunday, Mandelson immediately wrote back a second letter. However "fascinating" his time in Prague had been, he had been "troubled and unhappy as you would expect". He felt wronged – by Blair as well as by Brown – but he was still "desperate to put things right". Nobody in Brown's circle had been able to suggest to him how he could repair relations between them.

The letter went on: "Sue [Nye, a Brown aide and friend of Mandelson's] describes it as a war of attrition and Michael [Wills, a Brown ally and later an MP] says Gordon is 'determined to kill me before I destroy him'. Destroy him for what, to be replaced by whom? As long as I enjoy your confidence and patronage, why should I be bothered by what happens to him? Am I going to prosper from the rise of Robin Cook? It's simply ludicrous. All that is happening is, as a result of the situation with Gordon, I am losing your support, my career is being hampered, I am getting harmful publicity and I am creating further enemies for myself... Nobody, you included, I suspected, thinks Gordon is going to change and therefore, as the number two, I have to go. You are too nice and too considerate towards me to say this, I know, so I had better say it for you. You have to do whatever you think is right for the party to win and, in everything you decide." The letter concluded: "I shall make it as easy for you as I possibly can."

Wills, who has continued to be close to Brown while remaining on good terms with Mandelson, had indeed taken that view of the Brown-Mandelson relationship at the time. He suggested to one friend in the period before the election that the two politicians were "like scorpions in a bottle; only one of them will crawl out alive".

Of all the flare-ups that occurred between John Smith's death in May 1994 and the general election three years later, this was the one which came closest to fracturing the leadership cadre at the top of New Labour. But once again Blair used all his skill and forbearance to solve the problem. As Mandelson and Benjamin Wegg-Prosser (his quiet spoken, bespectacled 21-year-old researcher) sat gloomily down to dinner at their friend Roger Liddle's house in Kennington, Mandelson's mobile telephone rang. It was the leader of the Labour Party, reinforcing the message of the letter that Mandelson had received earlier in the day. At the dinner table the crisis was almost the sole topic of conversation. The collective view was that "Peter would have to keep agreeing with Gordon; that was what Tony wanted him to do".

If this could be made to work, the crisis would pass.



A frustrated Blair would repeatedly ask, sometimes several times a day: 'Why can't my two best people get on with each other?'

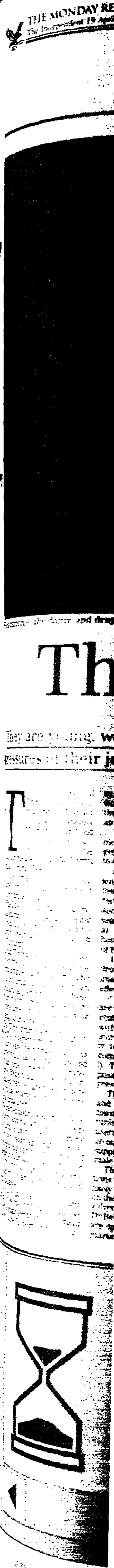
was still essentially a tax-raising party, as well as alienating potential business supporters. The argument was nevertheless a finely balanced one. A new top rate would have symbolically underpinned, as perhaps no other policy did, Labour's claim to be the party of "the many and not the few". It would have made it easy to pay for the agreed goal of a new 10p starting rate to help those on the lowest incomes. And it would have gone some way to blunting the edge of the liberal left's unease about whether Labour was abandoning its redistributive principles.

These were important issues, some of which went to the heart of how far Labour was prepared, as Brown wanted, to promote a redistributionist future. Moreover, much of Brown's irritation that Mandelson might be influencing tax policy was hardly irrational. He was, after all,

So little did the crisis have to do with policy that, three years later, nobody could remember what the row had been about – though the issue was almost certainly child benefit. Feeling slighted yet again by Brown, and then even more so by Blair's backing for Brown – which Mandelson believed owed more to Brown's seniority than to the strength of his argument – Mandelson, by his own subsequent account, "went nuclear, lost all grace".

What happened next became a matter of dispute. There were at least half a dozen people to the meeting. Jonathan Powell, as usual, sitting behind the desk taking notes, and the others, including Blair, ranged on sofas and chairs round the leader's office. Those in the room thought that Mandelson had stormed out, slamming the door behind him. He was later adamant

ing ended as it did, but I think we have to recognise that you and I have reached the end of the road. I am more than willing to carry on the general election planning if you wish – although we'll reach the same brick wall on that, too, eventually – and I will be very sorry not to play my day-to-day role here in Millbank. All I can say is that Margaret [McDonagh, general secretary of the Labour Party] is excellent, the systems are broadly in place and the whole operation is in a very different state from the one I started with. I hope you don't think that *amour propre* is the root of my problem. I have long gone beyond that. But I felt greatly let down by you this morning, and embarrassed. I do not want to be in that position again. Needless to say, I will always be available to you in any circumstance to help and advise. Operationally, though, I think



# The room went quiet. 'I didn't know you had a loan'

**T**he suite of windowless, low-ceilinged basement rooms under the Department of Trade and Industry headquarters in Victoria Street are soulless even by the standards of premises owned by Her Majesty's Government. But on the evening of Wednesday 17 December 1998 nobody minded that. There was a steady hum of euphoric chatter as some of Whitehall's brightest and best celebrated what most of them considered the department's greatest triumph since the general election. Partly, of course, it was because Christmas was coming: there was an end-of-term atmosphere. But it was also because of the event which the civil servants and DTI ministers had come to honour: Peter Mandelson, and his most senior officials, felt that the Competitiveness White Paper, unveiled just over two hours earlier, was the crowning achievement of his six months at the department.

It was a few minutes after they left the party that his 24-year-old assistant, Benjamin Wegg-Prosser, broke the news to Mandelson that his £373,000 home loan from Geoffrey Robinson, arranged in 1996, was soon to become public in a book about the Industry Secretary. If Mandelson was terrified by the prospect, he did not show it.

The following morning, in his large, modernist eighth-floor office, its huge picture window looking down over Westminster Abbey, he convened a meeting with Sir Michael Scholar and other officials. He took this remarkable meeting in what one of those present would later observe was a very "Peterish" way. He asked Sir Michael to refresh his memory on his role, or lack of it, in the DTI investigation into complaints over Robinson's business and financial affairs, including the letters he had written to Conservative MPs on the subject. Back in September, when Scholar had told Mandelson about the investigation into Robinson, by now a Treasury minister, he had accepted the permanent secretary's view that he and other DTI ministers should not be "involved in the process".

When Scholar had finished his résumé, Mandelson said quietly: "Well, even if I had not had a loan to buy my house from Geoffrey, I would have still stood aside from the investigation. There was a long, ominous pause. "I didn't know you had a loan to buy your house," Scholar replied, just as quietly. "We'll have to look into it." It was a conversation which should have taken place almost exactly six months earlier, when Mandelson, thrilled to be in the Cabinet at last, and with a department of his own, first arrived to replace Margaret Beckett at the DTI on the day of the reshuffle. Now, though he did not yet realise this, it was too late.

How did it happen? How was it that a politician so famous for being Tony Blair's human radar, so skilled at spotting the treacherous shallows and reefs that lie in wait for any government, could fail to see the jagged rock on which his own boat would founder? One of the Labour Party's most uncompromising chiefs puts himself under an enormous obligation - however generously and innocently conferred - to one of his greatest adversary's closest allies. Then he fails either to consult or inform Tony Blair, his own best friend in politics, apparently for no better reason than that his benefactor has exhorted him not to. When he arrives in government, a bloodied veteran of campaigns against Tory violations of minister-

ial standards, he does not tell the Cabinet Secretary of his plainly embarrassing financial obligations. At any point he could probably have prevented the coming catastrophe. If a colleague had been in the same position he would have convened crisis meetings, organised swat teams, devised a media strategy, enlisted accountants, told him to sell his house - virtually anything to defuse the ticking explosive under the seat of government. Instead, even when every three months or so Wegg-Prosser mentioned the loan, usually when they were sitting in the very house it had funded, he merely shrugged briefly and changed the subject. This was, above all, a very secret secret.

Mandelson's own explanation for the secrecy about his home loan was that, back in 1996, he was honouring Robinson's request to keep it confidential; however, he would not have been able to withhold what would anyway have been a prize item of gossip had Blair asked him how he had paid for his house. But Blair had not asked him; and to have told Blair once he was in government would have unacceptably complicated every judgement Blair made which had the remotest bearing on Mr Robinson or his future. But did this really explain why Mandelson did not tell anybody about the loan, apart from Wegg-Prosser, whose father, a solicitor, had carried out the conveyancing for the house purchase and had processed the loan agreement?

After the meeting between Mandelson and Sir Michael Scholar on Thursday 18 December, Wegg-Prosser telephoned Alastair Campbell, the Prime Minister's Press Secretary, to break the bad news, first about the loan, and secondly that it would shortly be made public. The timing was unfortunate. In two hours' time the Prime Minister was due in the House of Commons to make a statement about the bombing of Iraq which had begun the previous night. Indeed, when Campbell, recognising immediately that the loan was what he would later call a "big bad story", went to pass the unwelcome information on to Blair, the Prime Minister looked with understandable irritation at his watch, as if to say: "Why is he bothering me with this now?" Nevertheless Blair paused long enough to ask Sir Richard Wilson, the Cabinet Secretary, to look immediately into the question of whether the loan had placed Mandelson in a conflict of interest because of the DTI Robinson investigation.

Among some of those at Downing Street - though not yet all - there was almost straight away a sense that this might be serious enough to lead to Mandelson's resignation; Mandelson himself believed that, provided it could be established that there was no conflict over the investigation, he would be able to ride it out.

The responsibility for taking the loan was Mandelson's and his alone. He was not the victim of some elaborate honeytrap. He had acted of his own free will. The question of who had exposed him was therefore secondary. But according to all the evidence, exclusively circumstantial as it was, he would not have been exposed had it not been for the fratricidal conflict between himself and the politician he had once idolised above any other. The loan was as secret as it had been inadvisable to take. But its existence had long been known to a handful of Gordon Brown's closest allies, of whom Robinson was one, at least since the turn of the year 1996-97.

According to one source close to the Brown camp, the Shadow Chancellor himself knew about the loan from that period. The author of the



Mandelson leaves the DTI for the last time after the bombshell revelation that his Notting Hill house (top right) had been purchased with a loan from Geoffrey Robinson

David Rose

imminent Mandelson book, Paul Routledge, was a close friend of Charlie Whelan, the Chancellor's Press Secretary. Routledge and Whelan strongly denied that Whelan had been the source, Routledge being, by his own account, so fastidious in exculpating Whelan that he had tried at the eleventh hour to excise the story of the loan from his book about Mandelson in order to protect his friend even though he was not responsible for it.

But in any event, Whelan was not alone in Brown's circle in knowing about it. It is virtually certain that Brown was not personally responsible for the disclosure. It is much more likely it was from among his most zealous supporters, who knew what deep feelings of betrayal and mistrust he had harboured against Mandelson

delson enthusiastically led the company in a boisterous conga. The following day he travelled to Hartlepool and held his own annual Christmas party for his constituency activists at his house in Hutton Avenue.

It was when Campbell spoke to Mandelson on the telephone from Downing Street - where he spent most of the weekend because of the Iraq bombing - on Saturday, that Mandelson began to realise just how serious his problem was. He would have to reschedule the loan. And this was precisely what Blair, in two separate telephone conversations with Mandelson that week-end, firmly advised. The loan, he was clear, would have to be paid off. By Sunday Mandelson was able to reassure Blair that he had spoken both to his mother and to his brother

Prosser confirmed the *Guardian* story, adding the detail of the exact amount. So began Mandelson's 24-hour fight for his political life.

The Ministerial Code, which Mandelson was adamant he had not violated, does, in paragraph 123, place a burden on ministers to consult the permanent secretary about "any action which they are considering to avoid any actual or potential conflict of interest" and to inform the Prime Minister in "cases of doubt". Equally, the Members' Interest Register requires registration of "any gift or material advantage received by the Member... from a UK source, which in any way relates to membership of the House". In January the incoming Registrar of Members' Interests acknowledged that many MPs in all parties believed that loans from fel-

worried, tired by the Iraq crisis, and concerned for his friend, asked him for his assessment, as he had done in the past on countless issues in which Mandelson had not personally been involved. Mandelson's reply was that the press were "completely hysterical, out of control, and out for my blood". He was prepared to say that he had made a mistake but not that he had done anything "fundamentally wrong".

The press, however, was unwilling to view either the mistake, or his acknowledgement of it, sympathetically. He was therefore faced with a choice: either he could continue to defend himself and hope - probably vainly - that the tide would turn; or he could go on to say that when politicians made a mistake, they should pay a price - this would almost certainly mean resignation, which would be "very painful". It was at this point that Mandelson appears to have mentioned the dangers of seeming to be, as Blair would later recall it in writing, "like the last lot". Blair listened and suggested that the two of them should sleep on it.

Which Mandelson did. At 7am, he telephoned Wegg-Prosser and proposed that he should telephone Downing Street and ask Campbell, his deputy Lance Price and Jonathan Powell to go over to the DTI later in the morning. The ostensible purpose was to discuss the next stage of his fightback. But Mandelson now acknowledged to Wegg-Prosser for the first time that he might have to resign. At around 8.30, not yet having read what was certainly the most uniformly hostile press coverage he had ever received, he telephoned Gordon Brown.

The very fact that he did so illuminated the complexity of his relationship with that complex man. On the one hand Mandelson firmly believed that the story now threatening his destruction had been leaked by one of Brown's allies.

On the other he was reverting at a moment of maximum crisis to the one trusted friend and colleague he would have consulted unhesitatingly at any point in the period between 1988 and 1994. Brown, moreover, sounded traumatised by the unfolding events. Nor did he think, at this stage, that Mandelson should resign, believing instead that he should face out the embarrassment, make an admittedly quite fulsome apology, but live on to fight another day. Not long after 10am, just as Mandelson was perched on his desk reading his papers, Powell, Price and Campbell arrived; after a short period Price and Powell, though not Campbell, left the room so that Mandelson could telephone Blair. Campbell had been at his side at each of the two most trou-

matic points of his life: his "outing" by the *News of the World* in 1987 and the immediate aftermath of his father's death in 1988. Now he was about to witness at first hand his traumatic resignation from the government they had both lived for.

In retrospect this all seems embarrassingly maudlin. At the time it seemed like a family bereavement, which in a sense it was. Indeed, Cherie Booth indicated as much when she telephoned Mandelson from Chequers at around noon and told him warmly that he would "always be part of the family". Where was he going to be later? At home. No, that wouldn't do. He must come down to Chequers in the evening; her children would be there, along with her mother Gale. It would, in other words, be a family occasion. Blair came onto the line and reinforced the invitation: "We want you to be with us."

This was a warm gesture from Blair, a kind man - but also a steely one. Did Mandelson jump or was he pushed? The answer appears to be that Mandelson acted with propriety in raising spontaneously and directly with Blair the possibility of resignation as early as his telephone call of Tuesday evening. By Wednesday morning, Blair had come to his own clear view that Mandelson should go. Mandelson, in other words, had been prepared to resign. But if he hoped, and it would have been unnatural if it part of him had not, that Blair would talk him out of it, then he was disappointed.

It was true that Sir Michael Scholar, who was deeply dismayed by Mandelson's departure, had cleared him of a conflict of interest over Robinson's affairs. Lord Jenkins, a former Home Secretary and Chancellor of the Exchequer, subsequently told a friend of Mandelson's that in view of that he did not need to resign. On the other hand the political price paid by the party and the government, not to mention Mandelson himself, would have been too heavy to contemplate. In the event Blair went out of his way in his official letter to say that he expected Mandelson to do "much, much more with us"; he believed that politicians can rebuild themselves.

Much less officially, he took the trouble to write out, for Mandelson's arrival at Chequers, some private advice on how he might do just that. It was full of common sense. Having faced the knocks, he should accept them and get on with life. He should demonstrate that he was a conviction politician "freed to do and say what you believe in". He should spend more time in Hartlepool. He should "mix more in Parliament and be a team player". And he should sell his house.

## TOMORROW

THE 'OUTING' OF MANDELSON

'Dear Jeremy... Anyone could see where Matthew was going in his remarks. You had more than one chance to stop him and head him off. But you egged him on until his remarks became indefensible.'

PAXMAN, PARRIS AND THAT INTERVIEW

since the leadership crisis in 1994, that the secret leaked out. It now seems probable that the informant was someone who had believed that if Mandelson was not first destroyed, he would destroy Brown; someone who, like Henry I's knights, set out to rid him of this troublesome priest.

In the immediate period after he had learned that the loan was to be disclosed, Mandelson showed little outward sign of anxiety; on Thursday, he went about his office duties as normal and in the evening went to three separate parties.

At one, given at Duke's Hotel in London by *The Independent's* editor Simon Kuper, he stayed for an hour or more, chatting amiably to a number of journalists on several topics, including, remarkably, the future of the New Statesman and whether his friend Robert Harris would succeed in buying it from Geoffrey Robinson. He suggested that anyone who had "looked at the figures" would be wary of making the purchase. He went on briefly to a party given by Max Hastings, editor of the *London Evening Standard*, before returning to the DTI, where the annual party held by all the ministerial private offices was in full swing. Never one to pass up an opportunity to dance, Man-

delson did not have to be registered, but made it clear that she was now advising all MPs to register - all loans wherever they come from."

There was, however, a third question, quickly spotted by the Tories. Had he mentioned any loan when he filled in his application form for a Britannia Building Society mortgage? He had not - though at this stage he said that he was sure he would have filled the form in fully, and later that the loan had not been agreed when the form had been filled in. It would not be until January that the Britannia announced the information at the time of the application had been accurate and that there had been no undue risk to the Society.

In between his visits to the studios, with the experience of mounting a public defence becoming more and more, as he would put it later, "wretched", he telephoned two of his closest friends, Robert Harris and Sir Dennis Stevenson, chairman of Pearson's, to review the struggle. Stevenson, in particular, advised him not to rule out the "option" of resignation as the cleanest way to defuse the crisis. At 10pm he had his first direct conversation with the Prime Minister, by now at Chequers, since the weekend. Blair,

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## 'WHEN YOU JOIN THE CABINET, YOU SHOULD HAVE A GOOD HOME IN LONDON,' SAID ROBINSON. 'I CAN HELP'

**IT WAS** during the summer of 1996 that Mandelson went, at Geoffrey Robinson's invitation, for dinner *a deux* in the annexe of the Grosvenor House Hotel, where the MP, now a multi-millionaire, occupied a flat with a wide balcony looking across Park Lane and Hyde Park.

The principal topic over the sole was Gordon Brown, and Mandelson's painfully fractured relationship with him. They had

already spoken on this subject several times since the traumas of the leadership crisis in 1994, when Robinson, unlike Mandelson, had remained a Brown man. Robinson always made it clear to Mandelson that one of his prime responsibilities was to ensure that the bond between Blair and Brown was never "rent asunder".

Geoffrey Robinson would say later, when both men had

resigned from the government, that Mandelson had "asked" for a loan. The Mandelson version was slightly different: he had indeed explained he wanted to "get settled" soon; once he was a minister he wouldn't want to be bothered with selling his "poky little flat in Clerkenwell". According to Mandelson's friends, it was Robinson, a famously generous man, who said something like:

"Eventually, you'll be in the Cabinet, you should have somewhere in London where you can have a good home, where you can bring people round." Mandelson said that he did not have the "resources" and Robinson said: "Well, one day you'll write your memoirs." Mandelson then told him that he would inherit a substantial legacy. When Robinson asked how substantial, Mandelson

replied that it would be "in the region of half a million pounds". Then, as Mandelson would later confide in his friends, Robinson said: "Fine - I could tide you over." The conversation was left hanging, with the loan from Robinson not finalised until early October. It was clear from Robinson's tone that he would be in no hurry for repayment.

Mandelson now accepted some more immediate help

from Robinson. As someone who knew about property, he could help him find a place. Together, driven by Robinson's chauffeur, they set out house-hunting in W2 and W11.

They visited two or three flats which Robinson pronounced unsuitable. Why not go for a small house instead? This appealed strongly to Mandelson. The first house which attracted him was in

Ladbroke Road, just behind Notting Hill Gate. It had an asking price of £500,000. Mandelson made an offer on it but he was swiftly gazumped. But then they found the narrow, four-storey Georgian house in Northumberland Place, a significantly quieter street. It also had the added advantage of being £35,000 cheaper. Mandelson had found a London home he wholeheartedly liked.

# Just call me Bill – everyone else around here does

THE OTHER day I had an experience so startling and unexpected that it made me spill a soft drink down my shirt. (Though, having said that, I don't actually need an unexpected event to achieve this. All I need is a soft drink.) What caused this fizzy outburst was that I called a government office – specifically, the US Social Security Administration – and someone answered the phone.

There I was, all poised to have a recorded voice tell me: "All our agents are busy, so please hold while we play you some irritating music interrupted at 15-second intervals by a recorded voice telling you all our agents are busy so please hold while we play you some irritating music" and so on until tea time.

So imagine my surprise when, after just 270 rings, a real person came on the line. He asked some of my personal details, and then said, "Excuse me, Bill. I have to put you on hold a minute."

Did you catch that? He called me Bill. Not Mr Bryson. Not sir. Not O mighty taxpayer, but Bill.

Two years ago I would have regarded this as a gross impertinence, but now I find I've rather grown to like it.

There are certain times when the informality and familiarity of American life strains my patience – when a waiter tells me his name is Bob and that he'll be my server this evening, I still have to resist an impulse to say, "I just want a cheeseburger, Bob. I'm not looking for a relationship" – but mostly I have come to like it. It's because it's symbolic of something more fundamental, I suppose.

There is no tugging of forelocks here, you see, but a genuine universal assumption that no person is better than any other. I think that's swell. My dustman calls me Bill. My doctor calls me Bill. My children's headmaster calls me Bill. They don't tug for me. I don't tug for them. I think that's as it should be.

In England, I used the same accountant for over a decade, and our relations were always cordial but businesslike. She

never called me anything but Mr Bryson and I never called her anything but Mrs Creswick. When I moved to America, I phoned an accountant for an appointment. When I came to his office, his first words to me were, "Ah, Bill, I'm glad you could make it." We were pals already. Now when I see him I ask him about his kids.

It shows itself in other ways, too. Hanover, where we live, is a college town. The local university, Dartmouth, is a private school and quite exclusive – it's one of the Ivy League colleges, like Harvard and Yale – but you would never guess it.

None of its grounds are off limits to us. Indeed, much of it is open to the community. We can use the library, attend its concerts, go to its commencement exercises if we want. One of my daughters skates on the college ice rink. My son's high school track team practices in winter on the college's indoor track. The college film society regularly



puts on seasons of movies, which I often attend. Just last night I saw *North by Northwest* on a big screen with one of my teenagers, and afterwards we had coffee and cheesecake in the student cafeteria. At none of these things do you ever have to show ID or secure special permission, and never are you made to feel as if you are intruding or unwelcome.

All this gives everyday encounters a sheen of openness and egalitarianism which you may call shallow and artificial, or sometimes even inappropriate, but it also removes a lot of

stuffiness from life.

The one thing it won't do, however, is get you your wife's social security number. Allow me to explain. A social security number is approximately equivalent to a British national insurance number, but far more important. It is essentially what identifies you as a person. Failing to understand this, my wife had mislaid her card. We needed the number fairly urgently for some tax form. I explained this to the social security man when he came back on the line. He had after all just called me Bill, so I had reason to hope that we might get somewhere.

"We are only permitted to divulge that information to the designated individual," he replied.

"The person named on the card you mean?"

"Correct."

"But she's my wife," I spluttered.

"We are only permitted to divulge that information to the designated individual."

"Let me get this straight," I

said. "If I were my wife, you would give me the number over the phone just like that?"

"Correct."

"But what if it was somebody just pretending to be her?"

A hesitant pause. "We would assume that the individual making the inquiry was the individual indicated as the designated individual."

"Just a minute, please." I thought for a minute. My wife was out, so I couldn't call on her, but I didn't want to have to go through all this again later. I came back on the phone and said in my normal voice: "Hello, it's Cynthia Bryson here. Please could I have my card number?" There was a nervous little chuckle. "I know it's you, Bill," the voice said.

"No, honestly. It's Cynthia Bryson. Please could I have my number?"

"I can't do that."

"Would it make a difference if I spoke in a female voice?"

"I'm afraid not."

"Let me ask you this – just out of curiosity. Is my wife's number

on a computer screen in front of you right now?"

"Yes it is."

"But you won't tell me it?"

"I'm afraid I can't do that, Bill," he said and sounded as if he meant it.

I have learned from years of painful experience that there is not the tiniest chance – not the tiniest chance – that a US government employee will ever bend a rule to help you, so I didn't press the matter. Instead I asked him if he knew how to get strawberry pop stains out of a white T-shirt.

"Baking soda," he replied without hesitation. "Leave it to soak overnight and it will come right out."

I thanked him and we parted.

I would have liked it, of course, if I had managed to get the information I needed, but at least I had made a friend and he was right about the baking soda. The T-shirt came up like new.

Extracted from *Notes from a Big Country*, published by Doubleday at £16.99

# When Dad's left holding the baby

## A FAMILY AFFAIR

Actor Owen Whittaker met Lucinda Edmonds when they played the couple in a DIY commercial. When acting work dried up, they got into terrible debt. The bank was about to foreclose when Lucinda landed a three-novel deal. Soon afterwards she discovered she was pregnant, and they decided Owen should look after the baby. His novel about the experience, *The House Husband*, is published this week by Orion.

Owen

I was a professional actor before I was a writer, and I had a fairly high profile – I was commercials king. But by the time Harry was born, in the early 1990s, the recession was upon us and the work just dried up. It was an absolute financial disaster. I was in my mid-thirties by then, and I wasn't likely to be a high-flyer in any other employment. I was too old to be a tea boy, and I'm no good if anyone wants shelves put up, unless they want them at a jaunty angle. I got loads of jobs – I could always get the jobs because I was very good at interviews. I'm an actor after all. But I just didn't fit the format. It was totally soul destroying.

Lucinda was also an actress, and things had started to dip for her, so she started to do the proper job thing. Then she got very sick, and couldn't do anything. I gave her a pen and pad and said "Go on, write."

By the time she got a three-book deal with Simon & Schuster, nothing was happening for me work wise. Harry was born about this time, and automatically I started looking after the baby. After all, she was working, and nobody was paying me.

Looking after the children made me feel useful again. But no matter how educated we are, our instincts take over: I wanted to go out hunting, bring the food home. I felt that I wasn't getting stimulus, my pride and self-esteem were low, but at the same time I was seeing my child take his first steps.

I thought it would be a solution, but I didn't realise it would be such a long time. It got bleaker. I wanted to get out there and have a career for myself. I wanted to buy my wife presents. I felt very inadequate. A lot of the time Lucinda was working at

home. No one looks after a child like its mother; she would notice mistakes I made, and it was infuriating. She still points out my mistakes, and I make a joke of it, but I was a bit sensitive at the time and didn't find it quite so funny.

When Isabella was born, I was handed the new baby. It's hard for a mother to hand over a baby, but there were deadlines to meet. So I was the one who had to drag my butt out of bed in the middle of the night to pick up the screaming baby.

My in-laws were not happy that their son-in-law was not keeping their daughter. That's always been a bit touchy. Friends were a major problem. I didn't exactly announce it, but men would not get to grips with the idea: you are judged as a man by what you do, and then by what you earn. That was always a real problem for me. A lot of women wanted to know why you weren't out there working. At Tumble Tots and playgroups I was the odd one out: when females gather together, they like to have a pop at us chaps.

I had a lack of self-respect, not because I was playing with the kids or running the Hoover around, but because I wasn't out there providing. It affects the nighty bun fight in the bedroom. I just didn't feel like much of a man.

We were never going to be the kind of parents who hired a nanny, but I didn't imagine it would be me who looked after them, or quite so long-term. It's not an experience I would have missed out on. But I don't know whether my pride would have let me carry on doing that forever.

She had to take the children to London for 10 days, and she encouraged me to start writing. In those 10 days, I wrote the first half of the first draft of my book.

Lucinda

I found out I was pregnant two hours before the launch of my first book. I went to the party in shock: it had happened much sooner than we thought. It was unfortunate timing. I had just been given this lucrative publishing deal, and Owen wasn't working.

Owen took a part-time Christmas job at Dillons, earning peanuts. When I met him he was an extremely talented actor, and selling copiers or working behind the desk at Dillons made him feel worse. I realised it would be better for him not to do it, when he could be at home and mind his child and his pride.

After Harry was born I was rushing around doing PR for the book. Initially I was relieved I wouldn't have to leave the baby with a stranger: I was very happy it was my husband, but I had always felt I wanted to be the primary carer. Looking at Owen dropping me off at the station with Harry in his seat in the back, I used to feel a little bit of envy.

There was one time when I was still breastfeeding and I had to go to a GMTV award lunch. After a while I phoned Owen and said "Please put the baby in the car and bring him here. I am about to die." I tell you it was better than sex.

I grew to trust him. Yes, I used to criticise him, still do. You still feel you do it better. In the early days, he'd put a baby grow on the wrong way round. Actually, today he put Isabella's dress on back to front. Domestically Owen was a disaster. He could not cook. But he was always wonderfully nurturing and loving.

It was a problem telling people. To me it's the same if my husband is starring on the West End stage or wiping my baby's bottom, but it made a difference to other people.

My career took off at the moment Owen was subjugated, which made the contrast more stark. People would ring up and ask "Is that Mr Edmonds?" I hated it as well. I never said he was a house husband, I always said he's resting at the moment, he's caring for Harry.

With baby sick all down him and rubber gloves on he wasn't exactly Richard Gere. The males I'd meet were successful and smart, and I'd go home and there was my Owen with a baby in his arms. A man caring for a baby is extremely sexy, especially when he's got up in the night and I didn't have to. Other mothers would be all flirty with him.

We did hibernate socially. When things aren't right in your house you can't face the world. Sometimes I'd say "Let's go out for dinner and put on a suit so you look like you're happy and successful."

There were very few times when he said "I can't bear it any more."

Last year I was thinking it's ever going to get better? I worried a lot about him being unfulfilled. We were so depressed, we had ground to a halt. The book had gone out, and we just thought it's never going to happen. We were at rock bottom, completely broke. That's when Owen got the phone call to say his book had been sold.

He didn't say anything for 24 hours. I was so ecstatic, while Owen just wandered around exactly as he had for the last six years. I don't think he believed it was over.

I do sometimes think that maybe if we hadn't had children he would have had the time to get going sooner. There was never time for him to do what he wanted to do.

INTERVIEWS BY  
CLARE LONGRIGG



Lucinda and Owen with Isabella, 2, and Harry, 5: 'I didn't feel much of a man'

Stuart Hollis

# How to be a subversive: a poetic lesson

Beat poet Lawrence Ferlinghetti stands for all that is anti-establishment. So why did he become San Francisco's official Poet Laureate? By Andrew Gumbel

LAWRENCE FERLINGHETTI is intrigued by Britain's search for a new Poet Laureate. Not that the granddaddy of the Beat Generation, who published Ginsberg and Kerouac as well as his own counter-blasting poetry in the Fifties and Sixties, has suddenly developed a swooning admiration for the establishment. On the contrary: even at the age of 79, he still holds court at the City Lights bookstore in San Francisco's North Beach and huris invective at the rich and powerful.

But there is one thing Ferlinghetti is burning to know: "Does the Laureate get to be buried in Westminster Abbey?" The question is more than a joke, for Ferlinghetti is a Poet Laureate himself these days – Poet Laureate of San Francisco. The post was created just a few months ago by Mayor Willie Brown, who

had an official muse around this most literate of American cities and zeroed in on Ferlinghetti as the obvious man for the job.

There were no royal proclamations or city committees to vet the appointment, which lasts 12 months in the first instance. Instead, Mayor Brown simply ordered his limousine to slow down one day when he saw Ferlinghetti walking along the street, and popped the question.

If Mayor Brown was expecting courtly flattery, he should have known better. More than six months into the job, Ferlinghetti hasn't produced a single poem; rather, he has gone out of his way to be as unfattering as possible in a stream of public lectures and newspaper columns. "I told him from the beginning I couldn't write occasional poems for official occasions," Fer-

linghetti says. "And I don't attend dog and pony shows."

Ferlinghetti has railed against the traffic, the treatment of the homeless, the arrival of big national chain stores and the creeping gentrification of his beloved, once-so-bohemian North Beach. He has called for the main freeway running through the city to be blown up.

Ferlinghetti has a few constructive suggestions, too, such as painting the Golden Gate Bridge golden, establishing a poets' sanctuary on the city's Treasure Island, and tilting Coit Tower, the city's straight-arrow memorial to the 1906 earthquake, a few degrees ("think what it did for Pisa!").

Such public posturing probably wouldn't win a British Poet Laureate too many points. Then again, flattery probably wasn't what Mayor



Ferlinghetti: no sycophant

Brown had in mind when he appointed Ferlinghetti. This, after all, is the man who defended Allen Ginsberg's *Howl* against obscenity charges in 1957 and who, in his own poem, "Junkman's Obligation",

the following year, wrote:

Let us go then you and I  
Leaving our neckties  
behind on lampposts  
Take up the full beard  
Of walking anarchy  
Looking like Walt

Whitman  
A homemade bomb in the pocket.

"This is not a sycophantic position," Ferlinghetti asserted. "In line with Plato's concept of the poet as the gadfly of the state, I use it as a bully-pulpit, to be the seldom-heard voice of the people."

But some people aren't happy with his position, particularly since Mayor Brown has disappointed the radical left with his recent programmes to sweep the homeless off

the streets. "The same power that makes him The City's poet is used against the homeless and in the creation of suffering," said fellow radical Peter Marin in a local paper.

This is an argument that Ferlinghetti rejects forcefully, but it appears to touch a nerve none the less. For years, he refused federal grants for himself or his bookshop on the grounds that the US government was a corrupt, war-mongering institution. "San Francisco hasn't bombed any Third World countries back to the Middle Ages. It hasn't killed thousands of people overseas in illegal wars," he counters. But perhaps the deeper truth is that he is tired of gesture politics and would prefer to relish his moment in the sun.

In other respects, Ferlinghetti hasn't changed since the glory days

of the Beat Generation. He still walks around North Beach in tatty sweaters and painter's overalls, and he is still determined to remain relevant. "How to get out of the poetry ghetto?" he wrote recently. "Write poems that say something supremely original and supremely important, which everyone aches to hear, poetry that cries out to be heard, poetry that's news."

So his advice to the next British Poet Laureate is simple. "Do the same as me and turn the position into a pulpit," he says. "What are they going to do, fire you? Just act real nice until inauguration, and then blast them with a great poem about the British in Northern Ireland."

And if that disqualifies you from a burial spot in Westminster Abbey, well, for the great San Francisco rebel, it's a price worth paying.

Ovid's tales of dizzying change have themselves been endlessly adapted. Now Ted Hughes's version of 'Metamorphoses' is reassessed for the stage. Paul Taylor looks at a classic text with an unvarying attraction

# Unchanging appeal

It's all change and never a dull moment in the world of Ovid. A raped girl finds herself released into the sky as a nightingale. Her brutal assailant mutates into a hoopoe. That oozing tree over there is a lust-consumed minx who successfully plotted to have sex with her deceived and then horrified father.

Meanwhile, a headstrong lass challenges Minerva, the goddess of weaving, to a contest. Her aim is to prove the unbeheldden superiority of human skill, but she winds up transformed into the original spider – that cruel, miniaturised parody of spinning self-sufficiency.

It's the urbane, mischievous lightness of touch with which Ovid handles all this atrocity, all these tortured *in extremis* situations, that accounts for the recent powerful revival of his appeal.

And the idea that his sensibility somehow chimes with contemporary values was richly substantiated in 1994 by *After Ovid*. In this landmark collection, a wide range of distinguished present day poets – from old hands such as Seamus Heaney and Les Murray to young guns such as Glyn Maxwell and Simon Armitage – rose vigorously to the challenge of reflecting on and then re-interpreting the myths in Ovid's *Metamorphoses*.

But the star of this volume was undoubtedly the late Ted Hughes, who contributed distinctive versions of four of the stories – and found that he couldn't stop.

Teamed with Ovid, he teamed with magnificent poetry. The resulting *Tales from Ovid*, a collection of 24 archetypal Hughesian interpretations, went on to become a best seller and the winner of the 1997 Whitbread Book of the Year.

And tomorrow night it takes to the stage at the Swan Theatre in a new adaptation by director Tim Supple and the literary manager of the Royal Shakespeare Company, Simon Reade.

Meeting Supple in Stratford, I remark how fitting it is that Hughes's Ovid should find itself dramatised under the aegis of the RSC rather than, say, at the National or the Young Vic (where Supple is artistic director). Shakespeare is, after all, steeped in his Roman forebear.

Supple takes up and develops the point, commenting that "The ghosts of Shakespeare's plays flit through the *Metamorphoses*".

Supple's comment is an intriguing instance of our deep instinctive sense of Shakespeare's primordiality for – chronologically speaking – it is of course Ovidian wraiths who wait through the Bard's oeuvre.

Take *Titus Andronicus*, the first Shakespearean tragedy. Its grotesque story of vicious rape and mutilation, followed by a revenge plot involving the consumption by the aggressor of a pie containing his offspring, is intimately indebted to Ovid's treatment of the "Tereus and Philomela" myth which forms part of the RSC evening.



The Royal Shakespeare Company prepares for tomorrow night's opening of 'Tales from Ovid'

John Haynes

Shakespeare is not much given to "product placement" in his plays, but a volume of the *Metamorphoses* actually makes an appearance at a crucial moment in his plot.

And it is the chosen bedtime reading of even a late heroine such as Imogen in *Cymbeline*. So Stratford is indeed, symbolically, the perfect venue for this staging.

But why dramatise Hughes's superbly re-imagined passages of Ovid in the first place? Isn't it an imperfection to presume that one can add anything to the experience of a poetry that drives itself as powerfully and delicately into all the angles of desperation as this does?

Take the passage where Hughes enters the psyche of Myrrha, a girl who – wilfully pregnant by her father and now caught between fear of death and shame of living – is frantic to subside into the "nervous limbo" of becoming a tree.

The sensational paradox of the process by which her "swollen womb" becomes "confined" in the "gnarling crust" of bark that "swarms" and "warps" over her is rendered with a shocking immediacy. The tree weeps myrrh, the "meaty fruit" in her womb ripens,

"But Myrrha's cramps are clamped in the heart-wood's vice. Her gagged convulsions cannot leak a murmur."

As a way of communicating through compression the tortuous and inextricable mutual involvement of the girl's moral and physical plight, it would be impossible to improve on that cluster of terse

defamiliarising live music ripped the euphemistic wrappings off these fierce folk stories.

But if he finds my question about impertinence itself impertinent, he's not letting on. It isn't a matter of supposing you can add to Hughes's Ovid, he maintains, but of "providing a different way of enjoying" these myths.

*It's the mischievous lightness with which Ovid handles all this atrocity that accounts for the recent revival of his appeal*

puns: "gagged" is at once "choking with pain and shame" and "silenced"; "leak" signifies both "ooze" and – in one of the many deft touches – through which Hughes puts a subliminal modern spin on the proceedings – "surprisingly disclosed", as in a government leak.

Tim Supple is one of our leading exponents of narrative theatre – a reputation established by his two celebrated adaptations of *Grimm's Tales* at the Young Vic, where the spare elemental staging, fluent knockabout ensemble and exotically

There is evidence, Supple continues, that the Roman poet wrote them to be read aloud in company.

And as John Dryden, an 18th-century forerunner of Ted Hughes both as Poet Laureate and as an excellent adapter of Ovid, remarked, the Roman poet's genius for depicting "the various movements of a soul combating betwixt two different passions" would have made him the pre-eminent theatre practitioner "had he lived in our age".

That's another of the intriguing affinities with Hughes. He, too, is in

a sense the great poetic dramatist we never quite had. The experimental collaborations with Peter Brook in the Seventies on projects such as *Orphast*, where Hughes invented a phonetic language that tried to skirt conceptual meaning, did not lead on to richer inaugurative theatre pieces.

Instead, it went on to produce vivid adaptations: Supple himself directed the Ted Hughes versions of *Lorca* and *Wedekind*.

It's a poignant irony that we may be about to experience Hughes's theatrical genius at its most Shakespearean (albeit through a process that seems to bypass playwrighting altogether) in the modern poet's heightening of what is Shakespearean in Ovid.

Supple identifies this as the parallelism of the sacred and profane, the tendencies that in ancient Roman times reached their extremes in the gladiatorial arena and the crucifixion.

The director promises that in this theatrical version, as with Shakespeare, "the words will lead everything". No flashy tricks will upstage the poetry. The transformations will be simple and beguiling. Thus, when

Midas turns everything he touches to gold, Bacchus and his crew will mischievously swap what he is holding for a glittering substitute. Myrrha's mutation into a tree will be a gradual mummification.

These days, Ovid's poetry is frequently described as "filmic" because of the speed of its changing images. But I remarked to Supple that I could not envisage anything worse than, say, a cartoon treatment of these myths – where any sense of friction and resistance to change would vanish in all the slickness of a glib technical facility.

The director concurs, adding that, "the point of the transformation is that what happens to the characters is not total change. Something persists. Look at Arachne, perhaps more than ever herself when she is a spider."

The same is true of all the many poets who, in reinventing themselves in Ovidian terms, succeed in throwing into relief their own distinctive poetic personalities.

In the context of the *Metamorphoses* this could be said to constitute an amusingly rarefied instance of "The more things change, the more they remain the same."

## Still aiming true

POP

ELVIS COSTELLO  
ROYAL COURT THEATRE  
LIVERPOOL

THERE'S BEEN loose talk lately that Elvis Costello is becoming an irrelevance. The only one of his Nineties albums to gain pop acceptance was an Attractions reunion. His collaboration with Burt Bacharach, *Painted From Memory*, seemed an over-elaborate pastiche of precision, not passion.

Beginning yet another British tour, with only the Attractions keyboardist Steve Nieve for accompaniment, why should anyone still love this ageing merchant of bile? Two-and-a-half hours after he takes the stage here, as the crowd still roars for more, that question is humbly withdrawn.

This hometown crowd was always going to be a help. Costello and Nieve, in casual black suits, throw them an early bone, "Accidents Will Happen", then settle into the Costello-Bacharach songbook. Costello stands hand in pocket like a suave Elvis who might have written these songs in 1964. Even when he slips into a rearranged "oldie", "Temptation", he sings as a wiser, older man. The vitriol, intensity, and uproar which once marked his shows are gone.

It's hard to know when we all start to see things differently; when the passion returns. Perhaps it's when his lips roll back in his former mannered sneer, a rusty blade unsheathed on "This Year's Girl". Perhaps it's when he follows it with a hushed, intense reading of his great song of spent lust, "Indoor Fireworks". I'm almost sure it's the unrepeatable moment when he breaks off "God's Comic" to improvise a conversation between himself and a god who mistakes him for that other Elvis.

That's when the spark catches light. "Veronica" soon follows, and then "Alison". He must have sung it thousands of times, but his delicacy and commitment in teasing out its sadness tonight is a wonder that brings tears to the eyes.

At some point, the encores start, the crowd leaves its seats, and Costello realises he doesn't want to stop. When "Shipbuilding" starts with the words "Is it worth it?", someone yells "Yes!", before its Falklands context is remembered and everyone stands as if at prayer. And, at the very last, after signalling "one more song" over and over, and always finding room for another: Costello turns all the mics off and walks the stage, singing his most beautiful melody, "Couldn't Call It Unexpected No. 4", to each part of the hall in turn. It's a moment of pure communal connection, something corporate pop culture can't erase. Everyone's faith has been repaid.

NICK HASTED

Elvis Costello plays Glasgow's Royal Concert Hall on Friday

## Sparks of friendly friction

### THIS WAS THE WEEK THAT WAS

**Today** On this day in 1927, a jail sentence for indecent behaviour was passed on Mae "Is that a gavel or are you just pleased to see me?" West for her Broadway show, which boasted the somewhat rash title of *Ser*. In 1989, Chinese radio began giving needle time to Western pop music, from Madonna to Glenn Miller – but not to the Beatles' "Roll Over Beethoven", as this was too disrespectful to the great Ludwig van.

**Tomorrow** In 1902, a Paris exhibition launched Art Nouveau, which was known in France as "Style Liberty" after the London Regent Street shop (at least it wasn't "Art Marks & Sparks").

**Wednesday** In 1923, the Birmingham Repertory Theatre put on *Cymbeline*, the first Shakespeare play in modern dress. Margot Fonteyn had an extremely unballooned day in 1959 when she was jailed in Panama City; her husband, former ambassador to Britain, was accused of plotting a coup.

**Thursday** The first known case of a violin played on rollerskates was in 1760.

when a young Belgian musician wheeled into a London party, fiddling away like mad, before colliding with a mirror.

**Friday** It is always assumed that Shakespeare was born today in 1564, but he certainly did die on this day in 1616. In 1879, the first Shakespeare Memorial Theatre opened at Stratford, and in 1982, the New Shakespeare Memorial Theatre also had its first night.

**Saturday** In 1782, France acquired its national anthem: Claude Joseph Rouget de Lisle composed the "Marseillaise". Flip the Frog had his initial hop in 1931 as star of the first colour cartoon with sound: *Fiddlersbits* by the American animator Ub Iwerks.

**Sunday** Turandot had its first performance in 1926, thanks to Toscanini's conducting. Thanks are also due to the composer Franco Alfano, who joined up the dots to finish the final section which was left uncompleted at Puccini's death two years previously. In 1969, Mrs Dale's Diary, the 21-year-old BBC radio soap opera, finally went off air.

JONATHAN SAE

THE SPONSORS were offering free cosmetic makeovers in the lobby an hour before Mel and Sue's show at the Corn Exchange in Ipswich last Tuesday. The stars themselves required no such magical transformations; they bounced on stage very much unchanged from their familiar personae on Channel 4's *Late Lunch*. In their first live show for several years, they displayed all those qualities that have gained their irreverent TV chat show sofa-loads of malingering student fans. Those characteristics all tend to begin with the letter "S": sassy, saucy, sussed, sarky, oh yes, and silly.

The pair are at their best when their professionalism is at its worst. During the sketches that intersperse the banter, they often lose it completely

and step out of character to take the muck out of each other's (frequent) fluffs. Helpless corpulence is not unknown. Rather than appearing self-indulgent – a distinct danger – this capacity to revel in their own incompetence is actually rather endearing.

In one skit – about two debs flatsharing in the 1960s – Mel (Giedroyc) totally forgot her lines, which prompted Sue (Perkins) to harumph that she was going off to start up a new double act with Su Pollard. The insults spilt over into the next routine when Mel recalled that as the

**COMEDY**  
MEL AND SUE  
CORN EXCHANGE  
IPSWICH

youngest in her family, she got a lot of hand-me-downs. "What did they hand you down?" snorted Sue. "Not a memory, I gather."

This is the key to Mel and Sue's success – they could bicker for Britain. Like all the most memorable double acts – Morecambe and Wise, Reeves and Mortimer, Cannon and Ball (only kidding) – they know that audiences prefer to see fur flying rather than mutual petting. Two performers getting on like a house on fire never raised many laughs. For evidence, we need look no further than Roger De Courcy and Nookie Bear.

With Mel and Sue, no opportunity to mock is missed. Where Eric Morecambe derided Ernie Wise's "short, fat, hairy legs", Sue sends up Mel's, er, less printable areas. The



Mel and Sue: sussed and sarky

more chilliness a double act generates, the more an audience warms to them.

The show is not what you'd call a laugh-a-minute affair; in fact, it is decidedly uneven. Mel and Sue over-egged the pudding in performing

spoof Eurovision songs both to close the first half and to open the second. And a ditty about boyfriends and girlfriends was hardly pushing back the frontiers of comedy.

For all that, Mel and Sue's failures largely stemmed from a commendable willingness to experiment with material – there was, for instance, great originality in a sketch about the disgusting cuts of meat people during the Second World War were forced to buy from the butcher's.

Mel and Sue's career should continue to flourish because they are full of such unusual ideas – and they never forget that friction produces the most vivid sparks.

JAMES RAMPTON

Mel and Sue tour nationally to 21 May

## Raising the roof for an unsung maestro

SEVENTY-FIVE this week and still looking remarkably young, Sir Neville Marriner is in serious danger of being taken for granted. And yet who, among the current roster of London-based maestros, has done more for British musical life? Quite apart from founding and conducting the Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields (which is itself 40 this year), Marriner has proved highly adept in a wide range of repertoire, from Bach and Handel to Tchaikovsky and Stravinsky. But it is a sad fact of musical life that consistent standards tend, after a while, not to be noticed, and Marriner has, in a sense, become the victim of those very qualities –

technical excellence, reliability and interpretative honesty – that established his reputation in the first place.

On Wednesday night, the combined talents of the Academy and the Academy Chorus were paraded in full for Sir Neville's 75th Birthday Gala Concert at the Royal Festival Hall. The programme opened to an immaculate account of Mozart's *Haffner* Symphony where watertight ensemble, vividly tapered phrasing and a keen sense of style made for a particularly happy performance. Here was an expert band of players responding unanimously to their conductor's every calculated gesture. And the sum effect

**CLASSICAL**

SIR NEVILLE MARRINER  
ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL  
LONDON

was typical of Marriner's best work. Bouts of coughing rather spoiled parts of Britten's *Serenade* for Tenor, Horn and Strings, especially at the phrase "O soothest Sleep" in Sonnet, which tenor John Mark Ainsley sung with rapturous tone, and then again in Timothy Brown's off-stage horn postlude. Marriner led a well-focused reading, jabbing at the emphatic string figurations in Nocturne.

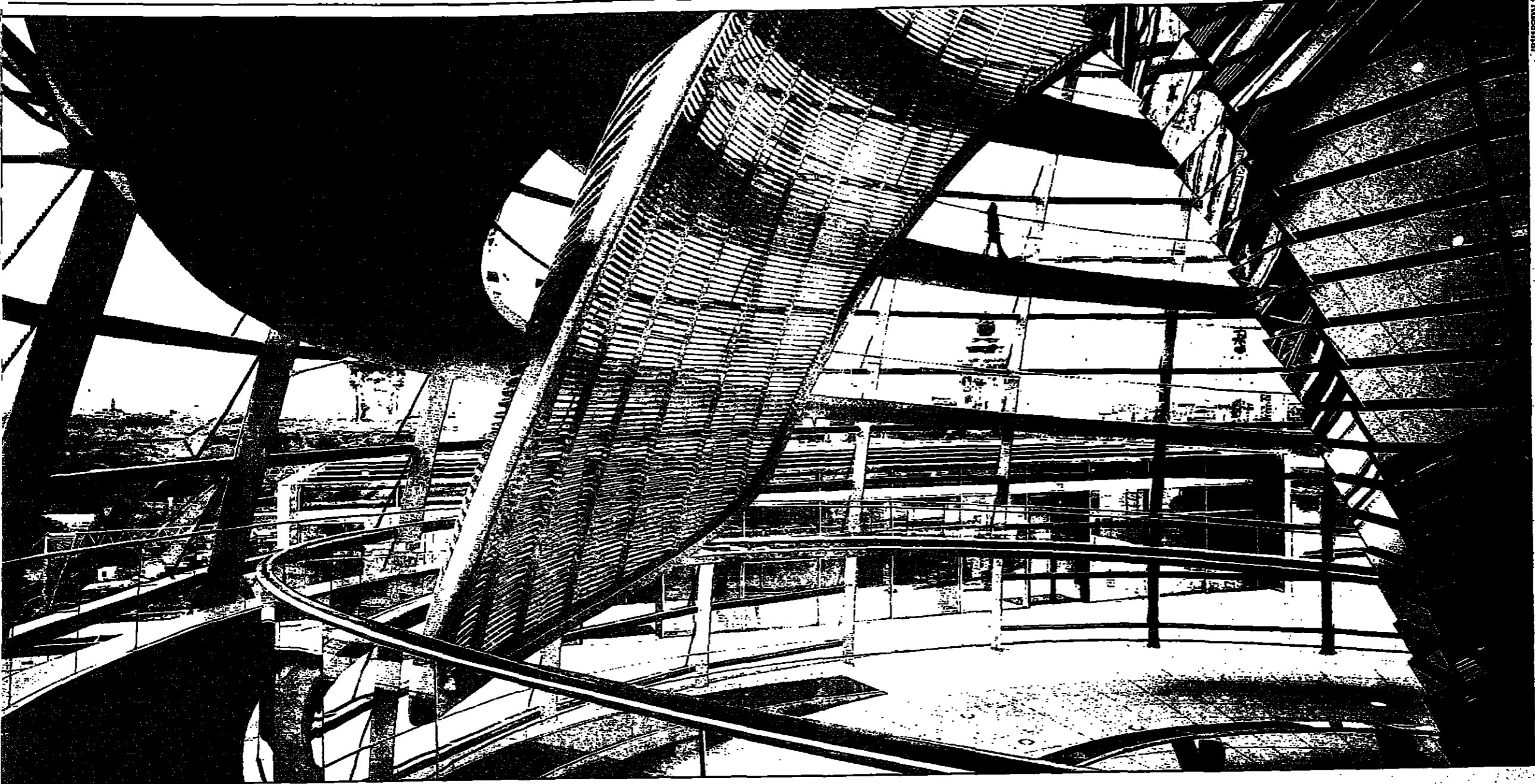
Mendelssohn's mercurial incidental music for Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* could as well have been written for the Academy, whose chipper account of the score – or most of it – made for a delightful second half. The main body of the Overture was pure thistledown, though a few elves and fairies fell out-of-sync among the violins. Marriner's woodwinds coped bravely in the Scherzo and soprano Philippa Healey invested "You spotted snakes with double tongue" with plenty of character. The Intermezzo – perhaps the most dramatic movement – was driven very fast, with lightning exchanges be-

tween violins and woodwinds, and the Nocturne was beautifully played by the horns. Marriner defied convention in the Wedding March by swapping the majestic ending for a quieter alternative, which made for a convenient segue to the magical finale.

The song-like slow movement of Mendelssohn's *Reformation* Symphony appeared as a brief encore. Thereafter, it was all over save for a full-orchestral "Happy Birthday", the birthday cake (wheeled in on a music stand) and the candles – which the sprightly septuagenarian extinguished without ceremony or effort.

ROB COWAN

Sir Norman Foster's glass-domed Reichstag creates a parliamentary building which illuminates its past. By Nonie Niesewand



# Norman's Berlin conquest

**T**he big glass lantern on top of the Reichstag sparkles with mirrored glass by day and is strobed by light at night, a sign that Berlin is once again the capital of a unified Germany. The public can even go inside this lighthouse to get the most spectacular panoramic views of the city from the double-helix ramps that spiral around its 40-metre diameter.

But the Reichstag renovation, by British architect Sir Norman Foster, is more than a magnificent cupola on top of an ungainly pile of stone built in 1898. Foster has boldly cut out the heart of the building, from roof to ground floor, to let the light beam down deep into the plenary chamber at its core. This surgery not only excises a lot of the past, it also allows the workings of the Bundestag to be transparently visible. Wherever you are in the building, you can look down into the debating chamber above the MPs is the sky. So keen was Foster to express the new age of enlightenment that he inverted a cone of mirrored glass below this lantern to diffuse and refract natural light deep into the cavernous building.

Foster explained the complicated geometry he used for the Duxford air museum as "a doughnut". At the Reichstag, a bagel might be a more apt word to describe his plan. Imagine a bagel sliced into three floors for administrative offices and press offices. Then put a cloche on top of the hole in the middle and stand the whole thing on the saucer-like debating chamber, and you can see how he has opened out an inward-looking building from another century. Below that debating chamber in the basement is a power station which runs on rapeseed oil – which gives some idea of the cavernous size of the Reichstag. The thermal station will power not only the Reichstag but the ministries and residences, designed by Axel Schultes and Charlotte Frank, which are being developed on an east-west axis behind it.

So much for a 19th-century imperialist building facing up to the needs of a reunified Germany in the 21st century. But how to deal with the legacy of the 20th century? This is what troubles architects and art historians in the building site that is modern Berlin. All that remains of the Wall that divided East from West until 1989 are zigzagging red lines to show where it once stood, painted on the tarmac of the new roads and intersected by yellow traffic markings. The once wide open spaces of No Man's Land and Potsdamer Platz now support buildings by an international, star-studded cast – IM Pei, Frank Gehry, Philip Johnson, Arata Isozaki, Jean Nouvel, Renzo Piano, Richard Rogers, Aldo Rossi – all jostling for attention beside the historic buildings from the days of the Kaisers.

Without turning Berlin into one big memorial site, history has to be respected and replayed alongside all the reinvention. There have been tremendous rows over the best way to do this. Simply removing all trace of the Nazi past is not a solution. In Berlin today there is no policy on how to preserve the past. Hitler's bunker, for example, is unmarked, although you can take the "Infamous Third Reich" tour, offered by one enterprising city company, Original Walking Tours. Sometimes history is told through archival photographs on the hoardings as the building or landscape gets a new role. All along Linden Lustgarten, which is being landscaped in a formal 18th-century manner, sepia photographs show



past Berliners' use of the gardens – including the time it was a rallying point for crowds massed under the Nazi swastika. Opposite, the old copper-clad Soviet block which was headquarters of the East German government and doubled as a bowling alley has been given a stay of execution and is having its asbestos panelling ripped out while everyone decides what to do with it. Where the Nazis burnt books in May 1933 in Bebelplatz there is a toughened glass panel inset deep into the square by the Israeli artist Micha Ullman, so that you look down into empty white bookshelves big enough to hold the 20,000 books burnt there.

Foster does not overlook the central role of the Reichstag in the history of Germany, which is why he leaves fragments from its past in place, such as the Russian graffiti from the Red Army occupation on 2 May 1945, when the Red flag flew above the Reichstag. Less obviously – but with more emotional impact – he has installed sculptures and paintings throughout the Reichstag that tell the narrative of 20th-century history. Positioned carefully, sometimes even poignantly, these artworks trigger a response that is sometimes joyful, sometimes spiritual. For many months Foster

worked with specially commissioned German, and Russian, French and American artists – chosen to represent the four Allied powers who administered the divided Berlin in the Cold War era.

German MPs who moved from Bonn for the first sitting today are going to get a few shocks. Such as the two bombs with a detonator on a table outside their café. Tisch Aggregate by the late, great German avant-garde sculptor Joseph Beuys is just one of the artworks installed by Foster to make the experience of the space an unsettling one. He uses their artwork to tell the narrative of German history from its imperialist past (Reich means empire) to German reunification, with the Third Reich period provoking the most unsettling spaces of all.

In the MPs' lounge, *Memorial to the MPs killed in the War*, by Katherina Sieverding, consists of three books on three lecterns featuring photographs of the MPs taken out by Hitler when the Reichstag was set on fire in 1933. Today, politicians emerging from the underground link between residential blocks and ministries (still under construction behind the Reichstag) are confronted by a wall of bronze boxes housing relics of MPs who opposed Hitler

within the Reichstag in 1933. The boxes are welded together by artist Christian Boltanski and titled *Memorial to 500 Politicians*.

MPs are singled out for the hardest-hitting reminders. Public spaces, such as the courtyards that house gigantic stone doorways by Ulrich Ruckstuhl, or the big lobby that faces the road, are lit at night so that you can see the pair of Georg Baselitz shocking pink paintings on either side of the room, which themselves are intriguing rather than unsettling. In the north entrance, American artist Jenny Holzer's four-sided column of red tickertape plays phrases from historical speeches given in the Reichstag for 12 days without repeating itself. The soundtrack gives onlookers a turn when it jumps tape and slips. "Every time there is a round of applause on the archival recordings she lets the transcript jump and drop a little so that anyone travelling in the lift looking out through the glass on to the column would think the cables had been cut," says Foster, who installed the work with Holzer.

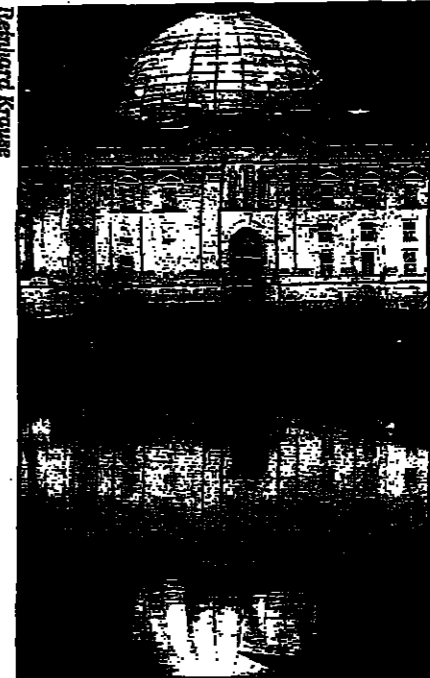
This use of art makes the Norman conquest of the Reichstag far more important than the addition of the dazzling glass dome – which is the only visible sign of change from the outside. He flies to call this cupola

a lantern because it beams light such long distances. The rays pass through an inverted cone covered in mirrors to radiate and sparkle like an Art Deco mirror ball.

In working out his design, Foster built a one-twentieth sized model of the lantern and rigged it up on the roof. Then he went up in a bucket and worked out exactly how the light would fall – "Not just background light but to get a shaft of light right into the space". At 2am before the opening he was up on the roof lowering the levels and the intensity of the artificial light. For special occasions, Zenon lights will strobe the air.

A bore hole sunk 400 metres into the earth takes surplus heat and stores it, with the surrounding rock acting as an insulator to release it during winter. In summer, photo-voltaic cells on the roof capture the sun's heat to store it and power an electronic tracking device that shields the glass dome from the direct rays, preventing it from becoming too hot or too bright.

As important as revealing the workings of parliament was the cosmetic surgery needed for a democracy in the 21st century. The unloved and unlovely Reichstag is a little over 100 years old, although it looks much older. It didn't wear well, either. Paul Wallot won a competition in 1871 to build



The new look Reichstag is floodlit at night, above. The interior of the cupola (left) is dominated by the inverted cone of mirrors, surrounded by a double-helix ramp

a parliament for the Reich, but it took 15 years for Wallot's design to get off the drawing board and on to the site of a razed palace near the Brandenburg Gate. When Kaiser Wilhelm II laid the last stone 10 years later, the project had swallowed 26m marks. This time round, the Bundestag insisted that the project would take no more than four years, and come in on time and on budget, for DM600m (£210m), making the annual contribution by each citizen of Germany just DM2, or less than £1 each.

Until 1954, it wasn't certain whether the Reichstag should be reconstructed or pulled down, but that year, reconstruction started. Since Berlin was no longer the capital, and the parliament had moved to Bonn, the building was used to house the German Historical Institute.

Foster was a joint winner with two others in a competition in 1991 to convert the Reichstag back into a parliament. His original design was not used, and instead Foster was asked to modernise an imperialist building and take on board all its cultural and emotional baggage. Foster, who is inordinately proud of the project, calls it "a labour of love".

On a tour of his new building, Foster leads the press in his slipstream along the double-helix ramp. Determinedly fit as a marathon runner, he never lets up. And to mark his achievement, Foster will receive the prestigious Pritzker prize for architecture at the Altes museum on 7 June, six days after his 64th birthday.

## LONDON PRIDE

Anyone wanting to understand buzzwords bandied about by architects and Government decision makers should watch 'London Pride', BBC2, 21 April at 11.20pm. Rather than carve up the countryside for more housing, the words that sum up current thinking are "brownfield sites" and "urban regeneration".

# NETWORK



E-commerce: the dance and drugs culture has been embraced by young, affluent IT professionals

Craig Easton

## The high techies

They are young, well-paid and, increasingly, turning to recreational drugs to cope with the pressures of their jobs as IT programmers, engineers and developers. By Samantha Downes

**T**he violent death of Chris Dawes, multi-millionaire founder of software company Micromuse, grabbed the headlines last month. Dawes was killed when his \$540,000 F1 McLaren crashed in rural Essex.

At the time, he was facing charges for possession of and intent to supply crack cocaine.

While Dawes' death may be an extreme example of the perils of being a hi-tech high flyer, there is a proliferation of recreational drug use in the IT industry.

Young IT professionals have eschewed the 1980s black suit for combat fatigues and trainers. The dance and drugs culture has been enthusiastically embraced by these affluent twentysomethings who do not have time for long lunches or hanging out in wine bars.

The IT programmers and engineers *The Independent* met in London clubs saw their drug taking as an outlet which eases long hours and mops up some of their considerable salaries. Robert, a 23-year-old London-based web designer, believes he is a typical example of the recreational drug user.

He started taking speed while at university and has graduated to ecstasy and cocaine since starting his job two years ago. "That coke-snorting thing behind the wheel of a Ferrari is such a bloody cliché," he said. "It's not about being glamorous now, it's about relaxing and being sociable."

Jules, also 23, is a "boring nerd, but I do love my job". He works as a systems engineer at an investment bank and, like Robert, takes ecsta-

sy, but only at weekends. "We all work incredibly hard. Most of the time there are not enough hours for an after-work beer," he said.

"And although the work can be monotonous it is very well paid. So getting blasted is simply a fast route to relaxation."

Extra pressures such as the millennium bug have pushed IT professionals into fitting the archetypal recreational drug abuser profile, according to Dr David Best, research co-ordinator at the National Addiction Centre and an honorary lecturer at the Institute of Psychiatry.

Dr Best believes that recreational drug abusers are attracted by the image of drug taking as much as the effect of the drugs themselves.

"Stimulant drugs like cocaine are appealing to young wealthy executives because they are associated with gregarious, sociable behaviour," he said. "They are more likely to be used by young up and coming professionals recreationally. These people have a high disposable income and their jobs are pressurised and demanding."

The IT industry's relative youth and its location in cities or large towns also make it prey to opportunistic pushers. Most weekend users admit that they do not have to go out hunting for drugs. "My boss supplies me with the drugs," one female programmer said.

There are geographical variations in drug availability. It is more likely in cities, but it will also depend on the network of the individuals involved and their external contacts, Dr Best said. "Those who sell drugs are opportunistic and if they see a market they will sell to it."

Dr Best said small firms in newer industries are less likely to have the screening processes in place to discourage drug taking. American financial firms in the City have for several years implemented strict and expensive screening, but there appear to be few measures to prevent or dissuade some young IT employees from taking drugs.

Louise, a 20-year-old software developer from Hertfordshire, travels down to London each weekend to join her young, heavily salaried bosses for a binge. "I work in a young industry where things are changing all the time. I am highly stressed a

*'Coke-snorting behind the wheel of a Ferrari is such a bloody cliché. It's not about being glamorous now, it's about relaxing'*

lot of the time. Most days I'm working 12 to 14 hours. I can't afford to live in London because I work out in the sticks. But because of my hours during the week I can spend what I earn going out every weekend. It's easy to get drugs, whether E, speed or coke."

Personality-based theories of drug use might find sustenance in the stereotypical image of the nerdy computer boffin.

"We found that drug users tend to be those with low autonomic arousal, people who have low levels of system activity," Dr Best said.

"They need external stimuli and are those most likely to pursue drugs."

"My job is not creative, but that doesn't mean that I'm not creative," explained Louise. "When I'm on E it feels like my mind has opened up - I don't care about anything."

According to the Standing Conference on Drug Abuse, there have been more than 70 notified deaths of ecstasy users in the UK since 1992, but most of the users we spoke to felt the risks were infinitesimal. Those who took cocaine or speed were even less concerned, because these drugs are seen as more established and their effects as better documented.

But employers who turn a blind eye should note the side-effects identified by Dr Valerie Curran, reader in psychopharmacology at University College London. Her research has shown that a significant number of users are liable to bouts of depression. This manifests itself in what the Institute for Drug Dependence calls "presenteeism" - where people were at work but unable to perform their job to the best of their ability.

"We found regular users who were clinically depressed at some stage during the week," Dr Curran said. "Ecstasy makes your brain spill out huge levels of serotonin, the feel-good hormone, and the brain has to work really hard to get it back."

Dr Curran found that the average use of ecstasy and cocaine was every other week. But regular users need more to keep them at the same level of high.

"If you give four doses of ecstasy to a monkey it still has brain damage two years later," she said.

But Anne Marshall, director of Adfam, believes that weekend drug

users are well aware of the risks of their illicit habit. "When it comes to the health issues, people poo-poo all the information pushed at them. Those who use drugs at the weekend have the attitude: 'I work hard, I like to relax but don't have the time, so I need to take something to switch off immediately.'"

"The problem might not be at a level that is important, but the effects can be long term: relationships with partners or friends may break down, which can be just as damaging."

But Marshall believes that in most cases users stop because they simply get too old. "As with alcohol, where the effects of a hangover get worse even as you enter your mid-20s, so too do the effects of drug abuse. That's when people start to re-think their habit. It gets harder to sustain and they have to look for something more rewarding."

Peter Skye, national officer for the 12,000-strong IT Professionals Association, part of the Manufacturing Science and Finance Union, said employers had a duty to prevent drug abuse: bosses should look for "the problem not the symptom".

"Drug problems may be work-related," Mr Skye said. "Many employers may worsen problems by imposing certain conditions. They have an obligation to identify risks in the workplace, such as the stress which can be caused by long hours."

"We would urge all employers, no matter how small, to make a commitment at senior levels to provide counselling and support for all employees," he added.

National Drugs Helpline  
0800 776600; Adfam National  
0171-928 8900

## Collaterally damaged

ARE THE browser wars over? Or have they been over for the past six months or so, and we just haven't noticed? According to one (former) top Netscape developer, the answer is yes.

In what was at first thought to be an April Fool's joke, Jamie Zawinski resigned in disgust from the team working on Netscape's next-generation browser, code-named Mozilla (www.mozilla.org). But unfortunately, it was no joke.

The reaction of the online design community has been one of almost uniform gloom. To many old timers in the industry, Zawinski, one of the original creators of the Netscape browser, was a hero. He was often described by himself and others, as the "loose cannon" at Netscape: someone who shook things up but kept the company honest.

On the eve of the Mozilla project's first anniversary, Zawinski, in a publicly posted "resignation and postmortem" (www.jwz.org/gruntle/nomo.html), stated that "Netscape [is] no longer capable of shipping products". Zawinski pulled no punches in his letter, but also admitted personal culpability in what he felt was the failure of not only the company he had been the 20th member to join, but also of its new master AOL.

In a follow-up to his letter of resignation (www.jwz.org/gruntle/aol.html), Zawinski further outlines his problems with the AOL acquisition of Netscape, and details why he feels that AOL will be unable to maintain the level of innovation that made Netscape great.

While the Mozilla project will go on without Zawinski, his resignation casts a shadow over the future viability of the golden child of Internet software, and sends a chill down the spine of anyone concerned with the future development of standards-based browsers.

The next-generation web browsers, often referred to as the 5.0 browsers, were supposed to fix all of the problems that web designers and web users were constantly complaining about. Both Microsoft and Netscape committed early on in the development cycles of these products to adhere strictly to the standards being set by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C), standards which both companies had more than a little influence in shaping. It was hoped that this would usher in another golden age of web development, where "code once, view anywhere" was again the web's motto. But both companies have come up short on these promises.

Although Netscape 5.0's future is in grave doubt, it is still far from dead. Just before Zawinski's departure, the Mozilla.org group had finally released working code, although it is still extremely beta. At the core of all browsers is the rendering engine, which allows the browser to display HTML pages. Code-named "Gecko", the new rendering engine includes support for all of the features and standards that web designers have been screaming for, including Cascading Style Sheets, the Document Object Model, XML/XSL and HTML 4.0. Better still, Gecko is much



JASON CRANFORD-TEAGUE

Web designers and Net users are the innocent bystanders in the browser wars

smaller than previous rendering engines. Remember the hours it took to download Navigator 4 and IE 4? Well, Gecko can fit on to a single floppy disk. While the Gecko rendering engine is still far too buggy to be released to the public, its beta version shows an amazing leap forward in web technology.

Then we have the recently released IE 5.0. While standards were promised, it appears Microsoft, sensing the turmoil of its chief competitor, decided to write its own standards (www.webstandards.org/ie5.txt). This is especially apparent in the Document Object Model and CSS implementations, which have numerous holes in their adaptation of the W3C standards, as pointed out in Netscape's Standards Challenge page (home.netscape.com/browsers/future/standards.html). On top of this, IE 5.0 comes in at a whopping 17.2Mb for typical download, and the Mac version is still nowhere to be seen.

So where exactly does this leave us? On the one hand, we have what Steve Jobs might call an "insanely great" web browser that might never be released, and on the other hand, we have bloatware that has been "integrated" into the most popular PC operating system in the world.

There is some good news for Navigator users. Last week, NeoPlanet, which creates custom browsers based on IE, previewed a new browser based on Gecko, called NeoPlanet v. 5 (www.neoplanet.com/research.htm). It is set to be released next month, well in advance of Navigator 5's beta release in July.

However, it's a fact of life on the web that the vast majority of users will never upgrade their browser. The one that will win the browser wars will be the one that's on the most computers, whether or not it is the better browser.

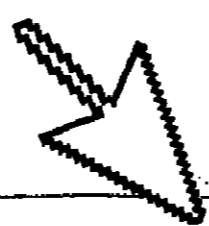
It seems that web designers and web users are the innocent bystanders in the browser wars. We are the ones who suffer when browsers don't ship or don't comply to standards.

I hope that Jamie Zawinski is wrong, and that Netscape can once again release a browser that is worth using. Otherwise, there is little doubt that we will soon be living in a Microsoft World (Wide Web).

E-mail your comments or queries to jason@webbadenvironments.com



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# A battle for the sonic boom

IBM and Microsoft have squared up for a fight over who will set the standard for delivering digital music via the Internet. By Andy Oldfield

A SERIES of deals and technology announcements last week marked the latest round in the battle to establish a digital music standard and the basis of a multi-million dollar market for downloading music on the Net.

For many who routinely download music or post their music for downloading, such a standard already exists. A community has grown up around the Motion Picture Experts Group-1 audio layer three (MP3) format that allows digital music to be compressed into files that are near CD quality and easily transmitted over the Net.

The problem, at least for the recording industry, is that the *de facto* standard format is largely unregulated and its ease of use makes piracy on a grand scale more than possible. Last year

the Recording Industry Association of America moved to make sure it was not left behind in a market potentially worth \$40bn a year by announcing the Secure Digital Music Initiative (SDMI) - an alliance of hi-tech companies charged to come up with MP3 alternatives that protect intellectual property rights, enable tracking for artist payments and thwart piracy.

Unfortunately for the industry, SDMI is making slow progress. Last week version 0.1 was being finalised. Leonardo Chiariglione, the executive director of SDMI, admitted "at the moment we have nothing". Everything is at stake, however. Digital distribution is unstoppable and will cover video and multimedia as well as music. With so much to play for, all sorts of companies

are trying to create or back a winner. Media, technology and communications companies are keeping their fingers in the pie and forming strategic alliances.

While SDMI is not yet out of the starting blocks, others are forging ahead. A newer, faster version of the proprietary a2b download system from Liquid Audio and AT&T was announced last week. But that announcement was eclipsed when IBM and RealNetworks said that they would be working together to create their own universal standards for sending music over the Net.

IBM has developed an Electronic Music Management System (EMMS) which uses encryption and digital watermarking to combat piracy. Several record companies -

including BMG, EMI, Sony, Universal and Warner - have backed EMMS. A pilot of the system is scheduled to be launched in California in June.

RealNetworks, the market leaders in audio streaming technology with more than 55 million users of its RealAudio software, says it is abandoning work on its own standards in favour of developing a plug-in for IBM's technology to work with its existing products. "IBM is driving what the industry wants to see as far as security and setting up a rights-clearing house," Maria Cantwell, a RealNetworks senior vice-president, said.

The aim is to have software ready by the third quarter. In time for a Christmas rush. "We want to be aggressive about

this," Ms Cantwell said. Further proof of RealNetworks' aggression emerged later in the week with a \$75m deal to buy Xing, the leading developer and provider of MP3 software.

In a separate announcement, IBM and Sony said they would collaborate to incorporate Sony's copy-protection technology into EMMS. These announcements stole Microsoft's thunder, which unveiled MS Audio 4 last week. Microsoft's new format competes directly with MP3 and is seen as a potential MP3 killer because it offers even better sound and file sizes and download times cut by about half. Microsoft is positioning it as a viable alternative to MP3 because it has some anti-piracy measures built in. Moreover, the Windows Media Player which will be used to play

downloaded MS Audio 4 files will also handle MP3 files.

With Windows' marketing leverage and MP3 support built in, MS Audio 4 is likely to appeal to consumers. A deal was struck with Excite for the technology to be used for streaming on its community pages. The recording industry may not be so easily won over, though.

At the launch last week, record label praise for Microsoft came mainly from the smaller companies. Microsoft could have alienated the bigger companies by saying that SDMI is a non-starter - something the MP3 camp has always emphasised.

Another player in the market will set its stall out this week when Apple demonstrates a new version of QuickTime at the National Association of

Broadcasters show in Las Vegas. QuickTime is the basis for MPEG-4, the next generation multi-platform audio/video standard for the Web. MP3 compatibility is built in, which means that support for the MP3 format will be available through standard operating system/browser functionality on non-Windows platforms, too.

The champions and users of MP3 will be pleased that, while the main corporate players battle for the supremacy of a single standard, MP3 is still proliferating and getting easier to use. With momentum on MP3's side, the industry's quest gets harder the longer the battle continues and the more it seeks to incorporate MP3. Those MP3 files on your hard drive are going to be safe for a long while yet.

## MY TECHNOLOGY EDWINA CURRIE

### All in the genes

IN THE near future, people will wear specs with clear glass because it is the fashion, and my mild problem of not being able to read without specs will be very old-fashioned. Genetic engineering could put my eyes back the way they were, and I wouldn't need specs at all.

My failing eyesight is the one really frustrating thing about getting older. My half-specs can ease this problem; the lens are made for close objects, so I can now glance up from the lens and avoid blurred vision when looking in the distance. But I must contend with a deep-seated psychological fear that they make me look like Jeffrey Archer. I can't go shopping without my specs, or look at a map. And it is really frustrating that I can chat to my children, but not see the banknotes I am counting out for them (I always fetch my specs, rather than find myself handing out £20 notes.)

Genetic engineering will be the great revolution of the near future. And we shall find it irresistible. First, it will be used in relation to illnesses such as haemophilia, cystic fibrosis, and any illnesses that can kill children. Add to that list problems that cause great distress later in life, such as Alzheimer's disease.

A question worth asking these days is whether we shall be able to correct genetic effects of ageing. Will doctors be able to scrape my cheek, tidy it up, or flood my system with a gene that will improve my eyesight. Very intriguing. It's not a Frankenstein scenario. Fear comes from the unknown, and I imagine that genetic engineering will be the same as most developments - once it becomes familiar the general attitude will shift towards acceptance. Newspaper headlines will be about marvellous transformations of children made healthy via genetic treatment.

It is always worth remembering, and especially with a provocative subject such as this - that one person's monstrosity is another person's miracle. Where I am totally convinced that we need to watch the development of this science is the areas of supervision and control. There are quite good controls for plant engineering, and also for people, but it is not taken far enough



Edwina Currie: 'genetic engineering will be the great technological revolution of the near future'

Glynn Griffiths

yet. For instance, embryology can be carried out up to 14 days after conception. Fine. But the kind of research they are doing during that time is what really needs to be examined. Look at what has happened in the animal field. When Dolly the sheep was cloned, it was a great surprise. Why? No one knew that this work was under way. It makes your hair stand on end to think that the original research was funded by the Milk Marketing Board. Why? They were looking for a better cow.

In my most recent book, *The Ambassadors*, a few Marilyn Monroes are cloned via her gall bladder. It's meant to raise all sorts of questions: identity, identification, the law and so on. I ask, but the novel won't

give answers - although I am sure we shall have to find answers soon. I found it quite alarming that there is very little literature on the subject. Of course, the sci-fi people have tackled these issues for years, but in terms of mainstream work, the only works that stand out are Ray Weldon's *The Cloning of Joanna May*, and a rather lovely book by Danielle Steele called *Klone and I*, about a successful businessman who clones himself to keep his girlfriend happy when he is not there. Unfortunately for the businessman, the clone is more interesting, and she falls in love with it, which points out that no one is ever identical. I was struck by how these stories were all based on the idea of a mega-

lomanic individual, with the science used for their own, selfish purpose. No, I thought, that isn't how it is going to happen. It will be on a much broader scale. It is like vaccination. When I was a Health Minister, I was encouraging everybody to vaccinate their children. It wasn't compulsory, but it was in the public interest. Similarly, this is how it shall be with genetic engineering - if you want to use it, that's OK, and if you don't, that's also OK. But if you come from a family where there is a problem - and most of us do - then you will be encouraged to use genetic engineering. And it will be available on the NHS. Just watch.

INTERVIEW BY JENNIFER RODGER

## Women get wired

They're gaining on men when it comes to using the Net, giving rise to a new kind of girl power. By Morag Preston

WOMEN HAVE suddenly become one of the most sought-after audiences on the Internet, and even Bill Gates is taking notice. Microsoft's MSN portal has just hooked up with the Women's Consumer Network, a fledgling company based in Washington, DC, to expand its range of products and services targeted at busy, professional women.

"Women are a very attractive demographic," says Michael Goff, director of programming for MSN. "A lot of advertisers want to hit women who are making the buying decisions and, to some degree, consider the male eyeballs out there to be a waste for the products they're delivering."

Internet retailers have at last woken up to the fact that the future of e-commerce depends in part on its attraction to women. Professional women in the Nineties are earning and spending more than their predecessors. They are also working harder than ever before. The Internet should offer the convenience that today's woman needs when it comes to seeking advice and making financial decisions.

The efforts of the software companies have not gone unnoticed. Five years ago, it was estimated that only 5 per cent of Internet users in the US were women. Today, the figure is 44 per cent, up from 35 per cent in 1996. What is more, 55 per cent of next year's first-time Net users are expected to be women, forecasts Forrester Research.

In the UK, 15 per cent of the adult population is online and around 39 per cent of those are women, up from 32 per cent in 1996, according to figures from NOP. Forrester predicts that women online will be level-pegging with men by the millennium.

As the web becomes more mass market, women are no longer put off by the notion that the Net is the domain of male techno geeks; a complicated toy designed by and for nerdy males. A wave of sites, aimed specifically at women, has recently appeared, based on the idea that women prefer online content which they can put to use in their everyday lives. Packed full of practical information on everything from fashion to health care and parenting, these sites appeal to women because they are user-friendly.

Melissa Moss, president of the Women's Consumer Network ([www.womensconsumernet.com](http://www.womensconsumernet.com)), launched her company after more than a year of market research. Created by women for women, it provides best-buy advice on everything from purchasing a car to investing in mutual funds. The site also offers discounts on everyday items such as tights and contraceptive pills. "We're doing for women what they would do for themselves if they had the time," Moss says. "We research

products and services, then we use the leverage of our membership base to negotiate good deals."

According to Moss, women use the Net in an entirely different way from their male counterparts who came to it much earlier. She says they are more interested in what technology can achieve than how it works. "Men use the Internet the same way as they use the clicker on the remote control of the TV," she says. "They're real happy to roam all over the place, to explore and have fun, whereas women use it as a tool to get things done: they're much more transaction-oriented than men."

As well as keeping a tight rein on the family purse strings, women, traditionally, are the researchers in the home. "They're the ones who find out where to go on holiday or make inquiries into which are the best schools in their area," says Judy Gibbons, director of MSN for Northern Europe, who stresses how much the Internet has helped women with their field work. "Now, rather than leafing through a magazine or visiting the local library, they're going online."

E-mail has also proved to be an attraction for women. Women write only 5 per cent of Internet users in

*'Men use the Net in the same way that they use the TV remote control... whereas women use it as a tool to get things done'*

more cards than men. They also tend to spend more time on the phone. For them, the Net is a support group offering advice on everything from how to cook to how to end a relationship.

Not coincidentally, Internet companies run by and for women are the darlings of the stock market. The stock of iVillage, the Internet company that operates the No1 women's site in the US, quadrupled on the day of its initial public offering. The site offers information on topics from parenting to retirement planning, and, at any one time, there are some 1,400 ongoing discussion boards. It attempts to create a sense of belonging, a community feeling, by bringing together groups of like-minded women who share experiences or help each other to solve problems.

Of those who have come online in the last 12 months, around 45 per cent have been women, according to NOP. They are part of a new wave of Net users, a generation and several orbits away from the leeches who adopted the Net as their own at its inception. Among six to 16-year-olds online, 45 per cent are girls, according to NOP. Although the statistic might be influenced by the fact that younger users are often made to go online at school, it does suggest that women are gaining access to technology at a much younger age. "There's a whole new breed of young women who are technologically unafraid and who see technology as gender neutral," Moss says.

## BYTES ANDY OLDFIELD

THE EXODUS of senior executives from Netscape Communications following its takeover by AOL looks set to continue. Earlier this month two key developers, Jamie Zawinski and John Giannandrea, became "Netscapeers". They were joined 10 days ago by Peter Hartner, Netscape's global public policy legal adviser.

Last week news broke that senior vice-president Mike Homer, responsible for the Netcenter portal, is taking a sabbatical in the summer. News.com reported inside sources at the company as saying he will not return. Jennifer Bailey, the company's senior vice-president of business development, who has worked elsewhere with Homer, is also said to be planning to leave in the summer. Netscape general counsel, Roberta Katz, and chief administrative officer, Peter Currie, are also expected to resign later this year.

A website at <http://www.ex-mozilla.org/> lists numerous former Netscape employees, many of whom have left since the company was bought by AOL.

ANDY GROVE, Intel's chairman, told editors and publishers at the American Society of Newspaper Editors convention in San Francisco last week that the web will cause their businesses the same sort of upheaval that Intel faced in the 1980s.

"You are where Intel was three years before the roof fell in on us," he said, adding that newspapers will have to reinvent themselves as the web takes over the delivery of breaking news in real time.

According to Grove, newspapers will have to play to their strengths, not just moving con-

tent to the web, but making those stories interactive and adding interpretation and historical perspectives to the news reporting in their print versions. He said that, although faced with a profit squeeze, newspapers will have to spend "You cannot save your way out of [a business crisis]. You can only invest your way out of it."

THE FOUNDERS of 3Com last week followed Bill Gates' gift of \$20m to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for a new computer lab by giving \$2m to establish a chair at the Laboratory for Computer Science. The chair, inaugurated in commemoration of the 20th anniversary of 3Com, is for researchers rather than existing MIT professors. The first holder will be Tim Berners-Lee, inventor of the World Wide Web and director of the World Wide Web Consortium.

FOLLOWING THE departure of chief executive Gordon Eubanks, Symantec last week appointed John Thompson as president and chief executive. Thompson, prior to taking up the appointment, was general manager of IBM Americas and said to be on the short list of potential heirs apparent to the IBM chairman, Louis Gerstner.

Thompson said that after 28 years at IBM the only reason he would join another company was to run it. He said that he intended to push Symantec to develop security software and virus protection for a world that is becoming more connected. "In the not-too-distant future," he said, "almost everything will be connected in some way."

## WEBSITES BILL PANNIFER

Newsmaps [www.newsmaps.com](http://www.newsmaps.com) Can news be presented on the Net as anything other than a boring series of links? As surfers drown in a surfeit of information, this site maps the density of the incoming data in geographical terms.

The result is a sort of aerial reconnaissance view of what's happening. Individual news items are shown as dots on the landscape, while larger masses of information pile up to form peaks. Distance on the map becomes a measure of overlapping relevance, and flags may even be planted as bookmarks. Potentially, this is a revealing guide to the topology of news coverage on any given day, though it tends to be a slow Java-load and, ultimately, it all leads back to Associated Press, ABC News, the Washington Post, Yahoo! and the rest. The service is really a promotion for "content analysis software" called Themescape, and perhaps better suited for previewing content trends across thousands of documents.

Nunavut.com [www.nunavut.com/home.html](http://www.nunavut.com/home.html) The map of Canada changed irrevocably at the start of this month. Some 1.9 million square kilometres of the Canadian Arctic became Nunavut, a largely self-governing expanse of ice and tundra extending as far as Greenland. This site is the information gateway to the new territory, and includes an optional Inuktitut font as well as details of the newly designed coat of arms - an imposing blue and gold number featuring caribou and narwhal, the ensemble topped

by a crowned iglu. The 1 April celebrations, with their fireworks and speeches, are recorded as a "a loud, proud wonderful day", and there are pages for tourism, health, hunting and fishing, as well as discussion forums. The online newspaper, *Nunavut News*, offers insights into a community struggling to deal with serious problems, though these sometimes have less serious aspects, such as an "unlicensed speak-easy on the West 40 Road". Meanwhile, Okie Kunuk is Iqaluit's Honorary Toonik this year - but the downloadable TV listings reveal, unsurprisingly, that Nunavut has the same TV as everywhere else in the world.

Channel Five [www.channel5.co.uk](http://www.channel5.co.uk) Navigation here is by page-zapping via a TV-style remote control. This state-of-the-art creation is not the porn site which recent output may have led some to expect, though it does include a fulsome tribute to Melinda Messenger, complete with Babelicious Photofest and downloadable Virtual Mel. "Download this pint-sized PC playmate and you'll never be lonely again." There's a seriously useful programme guide to all broadcast cable and satellite channels, background to the station's own output and a range of web-specific features such as *Drizzle Beach*, an "e-soap" sending up the Channel 5 soap *Sunset Beach*.

Send interesting, quirky or cool site recommendations to [websites@dircon.co.uk](mailto:websites@dircon.co.uk)

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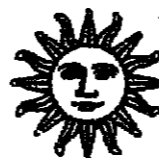
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"WYMAN IS TRYING" said Jeshiah Pike, and tipped off Jeshiah before anybody could give him the answer. Under the circumstances, this was probably a smart move. On Two Thousand Years (San 177), identity Bragg's millennium-paginated history of Christianity the decade got terribly bogged down in the question of whether the story of the resurrection was true or not. On the one hand, we had Gore with manifesting in his agreeably only WAGS-like fashion that it was all nonsense, on the other was Robin Kearnes, on the Archbishop of Armagh, admitting a little reluctantly that yes, he did think it was true, only not necessarily in the way you would normally use the word. However around in the middle was the theologian, Karen Armstrong, who argued that while it may not have been *true* true, it was a very good story.

That's the trouble with Christianity: it is a good story – Lord Bragg had already showing the novelist's knack for the telling phrase, summed it up as "the greatest story ever told" – but people will insist on explaining the punishment. Two Thousand Years reflected this difficulty. The program came out to very faint, with Lord Bragg emphasizing the brutality of the Gospel story and pointing out that Christianity was the religion that had governed sensually, banded lust, cultivated sexual guilt and glorified virginity. (Unfortunately, I am worried by its sudden keenness on religion, coupled with its unusually dark and luxurious quilt. It makes me wonder whether he and Cliff Richard aren't undergoing some form of mystical convergence.)

After that, we got a brief documentary on Christianity's first 100 years – Christianity has surely, if not seductively self-assured, ditching the notion of the New Testament as it's been an uncontroversially reliable historical source. Then, though, we sailed out into the clear blue waters of narrative into the muddy pond of theological argument.

There were a couple of moments of brightness here, as when Vidal suggested that the Archbishop's job was to proselytize. There's a tiny chance with you "later" on, perhaps. Vidal replied, then, possibly struck by the thought that this sounded like a pick-up, added: "we will proselytize." But mostly it was heavy, frustrating stuff with too many hares started and no conclusions reached – not even anything as definite as an agreement to differ. You can see why throwing Christians to the lions seemed an attractive line: a lion, at least you got a winner and a loser. The best Two Thousand Years on offer, the prosed in some home edition of Bragg giving George Steiner a good telling off, which is hardly the same as

Cliff War Sun Ca had Jeremy Hardy getting all angry and political about the English Civil War. News-style re-enactments of the main events gave the whole thing an appealingly *Bare* Peter Ishai air, but it was too rushed for understanding and too long-winded for entertainment. Still, I liked Hardy's attempt to make us imagine the pyramidal regime of 635: "Imagine an England where many of the public works for the Archbishop of Canterbury." After Two Thousand Years, I think I can: "You're nicked my son. But you know, in a very real sense, aren't we all?"

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